هكذا من الاصل



THE TIMES

40P

No. 66,125 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Fast exit for the slowest judge

BY FRANCES GIBB AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

A LEADING High Court judge resigned yesterday after three Court of Appeal judges attacked his "intolerable" delay in deciding a case.

Such criticism is unprecedented and Mr Justice Harman promptly told the Lord Chancellor's Department that he intended to quit — becoming only the second judge this century to go in such circumstances. He will retire on full pension of £56,000 a year.

Mr Justice Harman, 67, was well-known for taking a long time to deliver judgments and in this case a farmer bankrupted by a confidence trickster had to wait 20 months for a decision. The farmer's barrister became so frustrated by the delay that he considered taking out life insurance on the judge in case he died before giving his ruling — and by the time he did come to make it, the judge had lost his trial notes.

Ordering a retrial yesterday, Lords Justices Peter Gibson, Brooke and Mummery said: "Conduct like this weakens public confidence in the whole judicial process. Left unchecked, it would be ultimately subversive of the rule of law. Delays on this scale cannot and will not be tolerated. A situation like this must never occur again."

Lord Justice Gibson added: "Litigation causes quite enough stress as it is, for people to have to endure while a trial is going on. Compelling them to await judgment for an indefinitely extended period after the trial is over will only serve to prolong their anxiety, and may well increase it."

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, said that he shared the judges' concerns and had accepted Mr Justice Harman's resignation.

The decision ends a colourful career. The judge, nicknamed "Harman the Horrible", was regarded as intellectually clever, but he also had a reputation for rudeness, aggression and idiosyncrisy. Only last month he was voted the worst judge by commercial lawyers who took part in a poll run by the magazine *Legal Business*. It was the second time that he had "won" the title.

The son of an appeal judge, Jeremiah Harman had been called to the bar in 1954 after Eton, the Coldstream Guards and Lincoln's Inn. He made it a point of honour never to know the names of celebrities involved in his cases. "Who is Gazza?", he asked just after the 1990 World Cup when Paul Gascoigne was trying to halt publication of an unauthorised biography. He also denied having heard of Bruce Springsteen or Oasis, saying: "I don't listen to bands."

Married twice, he once asked a woman witness who wanted to be referred to as Ms: "I've always thought there were only three kinds of women: wives, whores and mistresses, which are you?"

He was also controversial away from the courtroom and in 1992, he earned the epithet "the kicking judge" after aiming his boot at the groin of a taxi driver waiting outside his London home under the mistaken impression that he was a press photographer.

In spite of the unpopularity suggested by *Legal Business*, his resignation brought a mixed response at the High Court. One Chancery barrister said: "I feel rather sad. Jerry Harman can be a real sod when he feels like it and he's notorious for taking too long to prepare his judgments, but he usually gets it right in the end and has seldom been overturned by the Court of Appeal."

But a woman barrister said: "Barristers, particularly women, have put up with his nastiness for long enough."

Another commented: "He gave a really good judgement but it took 15 months to get it" — he had worked at a rate of two pages a month. On another occasion, he took two years to deliver a judgment.

His delays were put down to "a mental block", rather than laziness. But yesterday the Court of Appeal was infuriated by the judge's treatment of Rex Goose in his negligence case against a firm of accountants.

The Appeal Court judges said that they had been anxious to avoid ordering a retrial, but felt compelled to do so after accepting that the lengthy delay rendered Mr Justice Harman's decision

Continued on page 2, col 3

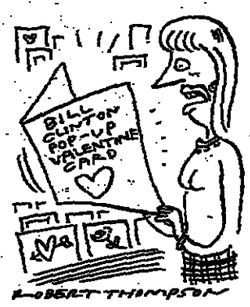
Leading article, page 23



Harman: criticised by his colleagues

DES JENSON

Romeo, Juliet and Smiffy



NO LOVERS' tale captures the spirit of Valentine's Day more poignantly than that of Romeo and Juliet and yesterday in Verona dancers Tamara Rojo and Roberto Rolle gave a foretaste of a new version of the Prokofiev ballet, which English National Ballet is presenting at the Albert Hall in London in June.

Meanwhile, back in the world inhabited by real lovers such as Smiffy and HoneyD, Willy Wumpkins is still in love with Snookie Poomps (Alan Hamilton writes). But a reading of the St Valentine's Day messages in today's *Times* leaves a distinct impression that the language of love is growing up.

Pooh Bear and Squidgy are still at large and yes, we have a new signatory in Randysocks, which must surely be a male conceit rather than a female vision of ethereal, floating passion. But partners are being more direct to each other, and most of them seem to be already married or, at the very least, steadily conjoined. Many messages now are of devotion rather than pursuit, as in: "Lynda. Eighteen years; you don't get that for murder. Happy prisoner, Kevin." And another that will touch all long-married hearts: "For 30 years I have been the winner, so tonight for you I will cook the dinner."

There is much encouragement in this year's notices, not least in the fact that men are still men, and the object of their deepest desires is not necessarily women. "The Bird In Hand pub, Dartford — I love and miss you," says one touching notice.

Weekend, pages 9-11

The Times up, Telegraph down

The *Times* recorded the highest percentage monthly sales increase of any national newspaper in January. Average daily circulation rose by 58,980 (7.5 per cent) to 842,341, the second highest in *The Times*'s history. Year-on-year sales were up by 75,400 (9.8 per cent), again the highest achieved by any general national daily, according to the *Audit Bureau of Circulations*.

Meanwhile *The Daily Telegraph* recorded the lowest January increase, of 539 copies a day, of any national daily newspaper and sales of the *Financial Times* dropped by 9,300. Year-on-year circulation of *The Daily Telegraph* was down by 59,600, the biggest number of copies of any broadsheet.

The Times gained more new readers in the final six months of 1997 than any other national daily newspaper. As *The Daily Telegraph* lost 100,000 readers, *The Times* gained 100,000, according to the National Readership Survey.

WEATHER 32
CROSSWORD 32
COURT & SOCIAL 24
LETTERS 23, 61
OBITUARIES 25
SIMON JENKINS 22
THEATRES 20
BUSINESS NEWS 27-31
UNIT TRUSTS 48
SHARE PRICES 26
MONEY 49-64
SPORT 33-43
WEEKEND
GARDENING 12-14
PROPERTY 16-18
TRAVEL 25-34
FAITH 20

Child work hours to be cut

BY POLLY NEWTON AND MARK HENDERSON

LAWS to limit the hours worked by children outside school and prevent them from being exploited by unscrupulous employers were promised yesterday by the Government.

Under national limits to be set by the Department of Health, 13 and 14-year-olds will be allowed to work for no more than two hours on weekdays and Sundays and five hours on Saturdays. Children aged 15 and over will be allowed to work for up to eight hours on Saturdays.

During school holidays, maximum daily working times will be five hours from Monday to Saturday and two hours on Sundays. There will be a total weekly limit of 25 hours for under-15s and 35 hours for older children. All children will have to have two weeks free from work during school holidays.

The regulations will limit the hours of the one in twenty five teenagers who work more than ten hours a week, even in term time. There will also be a clampdown on the 200,000 children under 13 who are thought to be working illegally under present laws.

The moves are designed to tackle "cowboy" employers who use children as cheap labour. They are also intended to keep Sunday as a special day for the family. The rules will apply to youngsters involved in sport, advertising and modelling as well as those doing more mundane work.

Speaking in the House of

Continued on page 2, col 3

Chemical threat to Iraqis

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

IRAQI intelligence has parked lorries laden with dangerous chemicals in residential areas of the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul, apparently to deter a coup against the regime, according to Iraqi opposition leaders.

Reports from the region speak of plainclothes police guarding the lorries that contain sealed barrels, said Mustafa Kemal Yaycili, leader of the Ankara-based Iraqi National Turkoman Party.

The lorries have been sited in oil-rich areas and those with ethnic minorities. Kirkuk has a sizeable minority of Turkish-seaking Turkomans.

In 1988 the Iraqis attacked the Kurdish town of Halabja with chemical weapons, killing more than 6,000 people.

Fuelling Turkey's fears that military action could lead to the break-up of Iraq, Mr Yaycili said the two main Iraqi Kurdish groups had designs on "oil-rich cities such as Kirkuk". Kurdish forces briefly seized Kirkuk when they rebelled in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War. Saddam's Republican Guards soon crushed the uprising, sending hundreds of thousands of terrified Kurds flocking to the Iranian and Turkish borders.

Trust call to curb shooting of deer

The National Trust has called for legislation to control the shooting of deer after farmers claimed to have killed up to a quarter of the animals on the Quantock Hills. The trust banned deer hunting on its land last April, but landowners can shoot any that stray on to their property Page 3

Gullit learnt of sacking from TV

Ruud Gullit learnt of his sacking from Chelsea on Teletext, he disclosed yesterday as he admitted had demanded £2 million a year to stay as manager of the Premiership club. He said that his dismissal was not about money and that he had not been greedy.... Pages 6, 22, 36

Lloyds TSB fuels share advance

More than £2 billion was added to the value of Lloyds TSB in response to pre-tax profits to £3.16 billion. The advance helped London to weather Far Eastern market volatility and the FTSE 100 index ended 29.8 up at 5582.3. Page 27



déclaration
new eau de toilette for men
by
Cartier

Available from Cartier boutiques, Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Selfridges and selected branches of Allders, Debenhams, Fenwick, House of Fraser, John Lewis Partnership and leading independent perfumeries.

Britain's winter heatwave puts Cairo in the shade

BY TIM JONES

CHILDREN paddled in the sea and enjoyed ice-cream yesterday as Britain basked in its hottest recorded February day. The temperature at Barbourne, Worcestershire, climbed to 19.6C (67.3F) making it warmer than in Cairo.

The previous record of 19.4C (66.9F) for February was recorded in Milford Haven in 1972, equalling that recorded in Cambridge in 1891.

The recent unseasonal blast of warm air, from north Africa, brought pleasure to most people but caused gloom in the Scottish Highlands and encouraged flaura and fauna to speed their burst into premature and potentially fatal activity. Children splashed in the sea at Lowestoft, Suffolk, and built sandcastles at Blackpool.

But the snow-free slopes spelt a wrecked season for Scotland's five winter sports centres.

For the first time in Britain, the European Cup Alpine ski finals are due to take place on the Nevis Range and Cairngorm slopes in March, but unless the climate becomes more seasonal another venue will have to be found.

At Lecht ski centre, James Mackintosh said: "We have been completely wiped out. Even the snowmaking machines will not work because the nights are not cold enough."

While the thermometer climbed to 19.1C (66.4F) in London, there were shirt sleeve conditions in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff.

The unprecedented temperatures have caused confusion and havoc for a whole host of flowers and small animals who face disaster if March brings frost and snow.

The mild weather is expected to continue over the weekend but cooler conditions will return next week. Fears that icy conditions could return are borne out by the experience of 1972 when the record temperature in February was followed by some icy days and a return to a more seasonal 4C (40F).

Photograph, forecast, page 32

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 60; Belgium F Frs 110; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 36.50; France F 18.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 900; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 100; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 40.00; Norway Kr 30.00; Portugal cont Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 35.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.50; Tunisia Din 4.750; USA $3.50.

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

MONDAY

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE
The romantic story of two trekkers lost in the snow



Under the skin of sport



FA CUP ACTION
Manchester United v Barnsley
Arsenal v Crystal Palace
Plus
16-page guide to Formula One

TUESDAY
Dr Thomas Stuttaford's medical briefing

WEDNESDAY
Inter//face
Computers: plot the future of fashion



Plus: Crème
– best for jobs

THURSDAY
Films: Kevin Costner on The Postman
Neil Jordan on The Butcher Boy

FRIDAY
Rock and pop
The latest reviews



SATURDAY
In the 100-page glossy magazine
HOW DANIEL DAY-LEWIS CAUGHT THE BOXING BUG

Advertisement

Make the most of your retirement

Retirement can be one of the most exciting times of your life. Free from the pressures of full-time work, you can develop new skills, indulge life-long dreams and visit people and places you've always wanted to see. *The Which? Guide to an Active Retirement* will help you make the most of the golden years ahead. It looks at • redefining your priorities • maximising your income from pensions and other sources • minimising your tax liability • working after formal retirement, whether starting a new job, setting up a business or doing voluntary work • reviewing where you live – is it suitable for the years ahead? • enjoying holidays and leisure time to the full • making tax-efficient arrangements for passing on your money • and more!

There's also a Good Health Guide with advice on healthy eating, exercise and common health problems, plus an address section for following up on many of the ideas suggested in the book. It's essential for anyone who wants to make retirement the most enjoyable time of their life!

The Which? Guide to an Active Retirement contains 540 pages of invaluable information and costs just £12.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP232, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

Lamont set for life peerage

Former Chancellor harbours high ambition, reports **Nicholas Wood**

NORMAN LAMONT, the former Chancellor, is expected to be made a life peer in the summer in a move marking an important stage in his political rehabilitation.

As an incisive critic of plans for a European single currency, Mr Lamont's elevation to the Lords would leave him well placed to play a key role in the "Save the Pound" cross-party campaign planned by Eurosceptic politicians and businessmen.

Lord Owen, former leader of the SDP and a former Labour Foreign Secretary, has been asked to lead the cross-party campaign, which could be launched by the spring in preparation for a likely future referendum on the euro.

John Major defied convention and denied Mr Lamont a seat in the Lords last year in his resignation honours. But political insiders say that William Hague, Mr Major's successor, will draw Mr Lamont back into the Tory fold by recommending him for a peerage in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Mr Hague was parliamentary private secretary to Mr Lamont while he was Chancellor and the two men remain close.

Mr Lamont, 55, is also to become chairman of Conservatives Against a Federal Europe (CAFE), the biggest of the Tory pressure groups opposed to closer integration, with about 4,500 members.

Friends said yesterday that Mr Lamont, who lost his Kingston-upon-Thames seat at the election, also wished to become an MEP at next year's European elections.

Mr Lamont lost his job at the Treasury in 1993 after the pound's expulsion from the exchange-rate mechanism. In a bitter resignation speech, he accused Mr Major of being "in office but not in power". He remains one of the few leading politicians to have suggested Britain might be better off outside the European Union.

Mr Lamont yesterday refused to discuss his plans, beyond confirming his chairmanship of CAFE. He said he welcomed moves to set up a national Save the Pound campaign: "I intend to do all I conceivably can to oppose a single currency."

Those involved in backstage moves to set up the new anti-euro umbrella body — notably Viscount Cranborne, Shadow Leader of the Lords, and the industrialist Lord Hanson — intend to appoint a full-time director-general to run a campaign, with Lord Owen as the most likely choice.

Lord Owen yesterday said the single currency was part of the "federalist agenda" of those who wanted a Europe so integrated that it became effectively a United States of Europe. That was an "honourable view" but when Britain first joined Europe it was made clear that did not mean a commitment to that kind of integration.

Leading article, page 23

SPENDING CAP OPPOSED

BY JILL SHERMAN

Lord Parkinson yesterday indicated that the Tories would oppose a legal cap on party spending for general elections when he disclosed that the Conservatives had spent £28.5 million to fund their unsuccessful 1997 campaign.

Conservative Central Office accounts showed the party spent £18.5 million in the year to March 31, 1997, and a further £10 million in the final weeks of the campaign. About £13 million was paid to the advertising firm M & C Saatchi. Lord Parkinson said that a limit would be "to some extent, an intrusion".

The Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life is widely expected to recommend that spending be capped at general elections, a position that Tony Blair supports.



Lamont wants to be an MEP, friends said

Slowest judge quits

Continued from page 1

invalid. "The court is driven to take this exceptional course on the ground that a substantial miscarriage of justice would be occasioned to Mr Goose by allowing the judge's decision to stand," Lord Justice Peter Gibson said.

"This course will unfortunately inflict upon the parties additional expense and stress, which the court was anxious to avoid, if it possibly could."

The appeal judges found that Mr Justice Harman had made incorrect statements and mistakes in his judgment, partly because he had lost his original trial notes by the time he came to give judgment.

Sir Richard Scott, who as Vice Chancellor heads the Chancery division — the High Court division in which Mr Justice Harman sat — said that what had happened was a "lamentable failure of the civil justice system". Sir Richard had done what he could to get the outstanding judgment delivered, but judges were ultimately independent: "You can't write it for them."

Mr Justice Harman had notified him that he intended to resign anyway at the start of the next legal term on April 20. Sir Richard did not know whether he had decided to bring the date forward because of the Court of Appeal's comments.

The judge, who will now retire on a pension of half his salary, could have sat until the age of 70. He qualifies for his full pension because he has served for 15 years; those appointed more recently have to serve for 20 to earn a full pension.

Mr Justice Harman's record for delay is unlikely to be broken since the judges who head the High Court divisions now monitor how long their colleagues take to deliver. They are specifically urged to deal with judgments speedily and if a judge starts to have problems he has to notify his head of division and seek time away from the bench so that he can complete his work.



Sir Frederick Lawton, a retired Lord Justice of Appeal, said that he could remember only one other such resignation this century: Mr Justice Hallett, who quit in 1959 after criticisms by the Court of Appeal over his behaviour towards two members of the Bar.

Leading article, page 23

New Labour: a new review every two days

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A NEW review or task force has been announced by the Government almost every other day since Tony Blair became Prime Minister. A total of 151 review bodies have been set up in 290 days.

In a written answer which takes up 13 pages, the Government lists the numerous groups, bodies and think tanks crowded out with officials, experts, and the great and the good.

The reviews and task forces also provide a wealth of opportunities for ministers to appoint some of their most loyal supporters to help the Labour Party in power. Lord Puttnam, the film producer, for example, is on the school standards review and the creative industries taskforce, while Ken Follett, the novelist whose wife Barbara is a Labour MP, is on the literacy taskforce. Richard Branson is also on task forces for the creative industries and tobacco sports sponsorship.

The reviews cover a tapestry of national life: the firefighters' pension scheme, the water abstraction licensing scheme, the role of the Welsh Language Board in Welsh education, and a review of the political restrictions on local government officers.

There are studies on salmon and freshwater fisheries, the Milk Development Council, quangos, film policy, post offices, prison health care and Skye bridge tolls. Various groups are also looking at new national parks in Scotland and Gaelic broadcasting.

There are reviews on the control of unscrupulous immigration advisers and of the role of the future role of local civil protection in England and Wales. A working group is considering measures to revive the shipping industry.

There are innumerable taxes under review, but so far no review to get rid of income tax. Among the Treasury-driven reviews are those on the North Sea fiscal regime, the leakage and avoidance of direct taxes, landfill tax, capital gains tax, charities' tax, and alcohol and tobacco duties.

If officials are tired of reviews, they choose an audit. There is an audit of the Foresight programme, which aims to bring together businesses, government and academia to identify market and technology opportunities for the future.

Ministers are also looking at measures to deal with antisocial behaviour and to deal with the protection of communities from known sex offenders who pose a continuing risk. The list was published as a written answer in the Lords yesterday to Lord Chesham, a former Tory deputy Chief Whip. He is to raise it in the Lords on Monday.

Child workers' hours to be reduced

Continued from page 1

Commons during a debate on child employment. Paul Boateng, the junior Health Minister, said the Children and Young Persons Act would be amended in order to bring the regulations into force. They are expected to take effect in August. At the moment, limits on working hours for children in school holidays and on Saturdays are set by local authorities. As well as standardising the rules across the country, the Government will require councils to draw up a list of jobs that 13-year-olds will be allowed to do.

Mr Boateng told MPs that children must be protected from exploitation. It was particularly important to prevent them from working long hours on Sundays. "We believe that Sunday is a special day, special for the family and for children, a day in which there ought to be a focus for family life."

Chris Pond, the Labour MP whose Private Member's Bill on the employment of children was the subject of yesterday's debate, agreed to withdraw his proposals in the light of Mr Boateng's commitments.

The Association of Model Agencies welcomed the moves, saying: "Since the last Government deregulated the industry two years ago, we have seen a lot of disreputable organisations set up, not members of the AMA, who do not look after their girls."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hint of a second clone

The scientist who cloned Dolly the sheep hinted that he was attempting to repeat the success. At the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia, Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, was challenged to say why he was not repeating the experiment. He said: "Perhaps we are. I didn't say I wasn't, I said we were not using exactly the same cells. That's different." Nobody else has matched the achievement.

Elgar's third

A third Elgar symphony created by Anthony Payne from Sir Edward's final sketches and commissioned against his death-bed wish will be premiered tomorrow at the Festival Hall in London. Elgar wanted the sketches burnt.

Bomb scare

A thousand residents were evacuated after a 500kg German bomb from the Second World War was found buried in fields near Chippenham, Wiltshire. Army bomb disposal experts were last night trying to defuse it.

Mercy death

An 81-year-old man who killed his sick wife as an act of mercy has died while awaiting trial for murder. Frank Crook, of Birmingham, died from natural causes after being charged with killing his wife, Dorothy, 82.

Sad hair day

A man stealthily snipped nine inches of hair from a 46-year-old lady's head as she travelled home on a bus in Basildon, Essex. The lady's hair was unwashed for the attack, until she discovered, has since had her hair restyled.

Tooze wedding

Cheryl Tooze, whose parents were shot dead at their Welsh farmhouse in July 1993, married the man wrongly convicted of their murder, Jonathan Jones, also 31. They married near their home in Caerphilly, South Wales.

Sweet truth

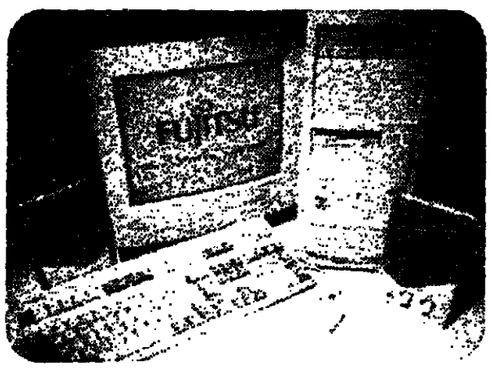
People crave chocolate simply because it tastes good, not because it turns them on, Paul Rozin, of the University of Pennsylvania, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia.

Internet leader

Users of The Times and The Sunday Times Internet editions read 9,781,750 pages last month, according to the latest monthly audit by the Audit Bureau of Circulations. This highest figure since September confirms our position as Britain's busiest audited website. The Times* website is at *http://www.the-times.co.uk

AT LAST!
EUROPEAN PC PRICES ARRIVE IN THE UK!

Figures from leading analysts show that you can pay as much as 30% more for your PC in the UK than in some other European countries. But not any more. Fujitsu, one of the world's largest computer companies with a turnover in excess of $36billion and a market leader in desktop and mobile computing has used its manufacturing economies of scale to bring Continental European prices to the UK!



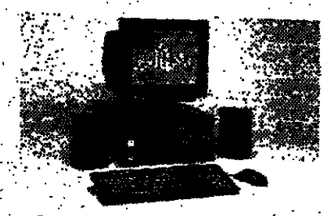
- Cordant NA-5
- 233MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 32 MB SDRAM
- 3D/4MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 24x Speed CD ROM
- 16 Bit Soundcard
- 25 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 15" Colour Monitor

£995 inc. VAT



- Cordant NA-6
- 200MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 24x Speed CD ROM
- 25 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 15" Colour Monitor

£845 inc. VAT



- Myrica NA-7
- 166MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology (Black desktop)
- 32 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 20x Speed CD ROM
- 12 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 33.6k Fax Modem
- 14" Colour Monitor (Upgrade to 15" Monitor £50)

£699 inc. VAT

Products come with: MS Windows 95, MS Works V4.0, MS Word 97 and FinFin.
One year on-site warranty and free telephone hotline support included

The Intel Inside® logo and Pentium® are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

All major credit cards accepted. Finance Terms Available. Subject to status.

Sat 9-5pm Sun 10.30-4pm Weekdays 9-8pm Delivery £25 + VAT

Call this number to order your multimedia PC

0181 286 2222

TechDirect, Unit 20 Red Lion Business Park, Red Lion Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7QD

FUJITSU

PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS

هكذا من الاصل

Confession of the deer hunters

Simon de Bruxelles on farmers who ordered gun cull because their traditional chase was banned

PROOF that red deer face a bleak future on the Quantock Hills lies in a small field at the end of a rutted farmtrack. Lined up alongside a bramble hedge are the heads and antlers of 59 stags. They are all that remains of more than 160 animals shot on the command of two Somerset farmers after deer hounds were banned from lands of the National Trust and the Forestry Commission.

The farmers, Robert Rowe and Ben Bartlett, say they do not see why they should allow the wild deer to graze on their land if they cannot take part in their traditional sport, so they ordered their own cull. Although the Forestry Commission eventually issued a hunting licence, it was too late for many of the Quantocks' 700 to 800 red deer.



At risk: red deer roam wild in the Quantocks

The deer were shot by a farm worker on what had been safe feeding ground for Britain's largest wild animal. Mr Rowe, 39, says that deer cause about £5,000 of damage to crops on his 900-acre farm at Merridge each year. He said: "Farming may be our business, but hunting was our way of life. We won't be dictated to by people who know nothing of country ways. Without hunting, there wouldn't be red deer on the Quantocks, it is the only reason many landowners tolerate them."

The farmers say that, without hunting, around which their non-working lives revolved, the deer are simply a pest like rabbits, and they do not want to let other people make profit from shooting animals they have fed. Mr Rowe said: "You might feed a stag for a couple of years, and you know that one day you might end up hunting him. Then he wanders onto someone else's land and gets shot. Now everyone's worried their neighbour will get him first. Why should we feed the deer so other people, and that includes the National Trust and the Forestry Commission, can get the benefit?"

Although the Quantock Staghounds still hunt, time is running out. The National Trust banned deer hunting on its land last April and the Forestry Commission will not grant a licence next season, putting the woods where the deer take refuge off limits to the hounds. The Government still intends to outlaw all hunting with hounds.

An earlier photograph of some of the same deer heads was widely dismissed as a propaganda hoax. Many people, including pro-hunting locals, prayed that fears of a massacre were groundless. But any lingering hope that the farmers were bluffing has evaporated. Skulls of younger stags are stacked three deep at the back of the semi-derelict farm building where the carcasses were butchered before being sold to two game dealers for up to £300 each. The heads and antlers of larger beasts have been left for nature to pick clean.

Mr Rowe says that money is not the motivation, although welcome at the most difficult time he has known in 20 years of farming. The long-mouldering fur and flesh seems to support his claim that he stopped shooting the moment the Forestry Commission changed its mind and issued its licence in November. But, he says, others have not.

Mr Rowe, as have four generations before him, has hunted with the Quantock Staghounds since his teens. He is a "harbourer" who monitors and tracks the deer.

When a neighbouring farmer called him a "bastard", Mr Rowe replied: "What do you know? You've only been here five minutes." Reminded by his wife that the neighbour had been farming next door for 23 years, he said: "That's what I mean."

Most landowners accept that the number of deer needs to fall significantly but so far they have been unable to agree how to manage the herd. With more than 200 people owning land around the Quantocks, agreeing even the day of the week would be an achievement. The only thing that unites them is resentment at being told what to do by city folk. Mr Rowe and Mr Bartlett say their ceasefire is temporary. Mr Rowe said: "I reckon 250 deer were feeding on our land. We are still feeding 150. If hunting licences are refused next season, we will have to start shooting again.

"There will always be deer in the Quantocks because several big landowners don't allow shooting. But so many people have rifles, the deer will learn to hide up during the day and you will probably never see them." Red deer enjoy little more official protection than rabbits, although it is illegal to stalk them at night or during close season. Man is their only natural predator and if one of the animals strays onto your land, you are entitled to shoot it.

Mr Bartlett, whose 200-acre farm at Over Stowey is next to forestry land, said about half the culled deer were shot on his property between September and November. He said: "As hunting farmers, we put up with many more deer than we could really afford, but at least the hounds kept the herd dispersed so the burden didn't all fall on one person. The National Trust introduced the ban without any consultation."

Many more deer are shot each season than the 80 to 100 head taken by the hunt, and both the National Trust and the Forestry Commission employ stalkers to keep the numbers down. The Trust's ban is based on a study which claims that deer suffer unnecessary distress during the chase. A spokesman, Warren Davis, said: "If indiscriminate shooting continues, the Government will have to consider legislation."

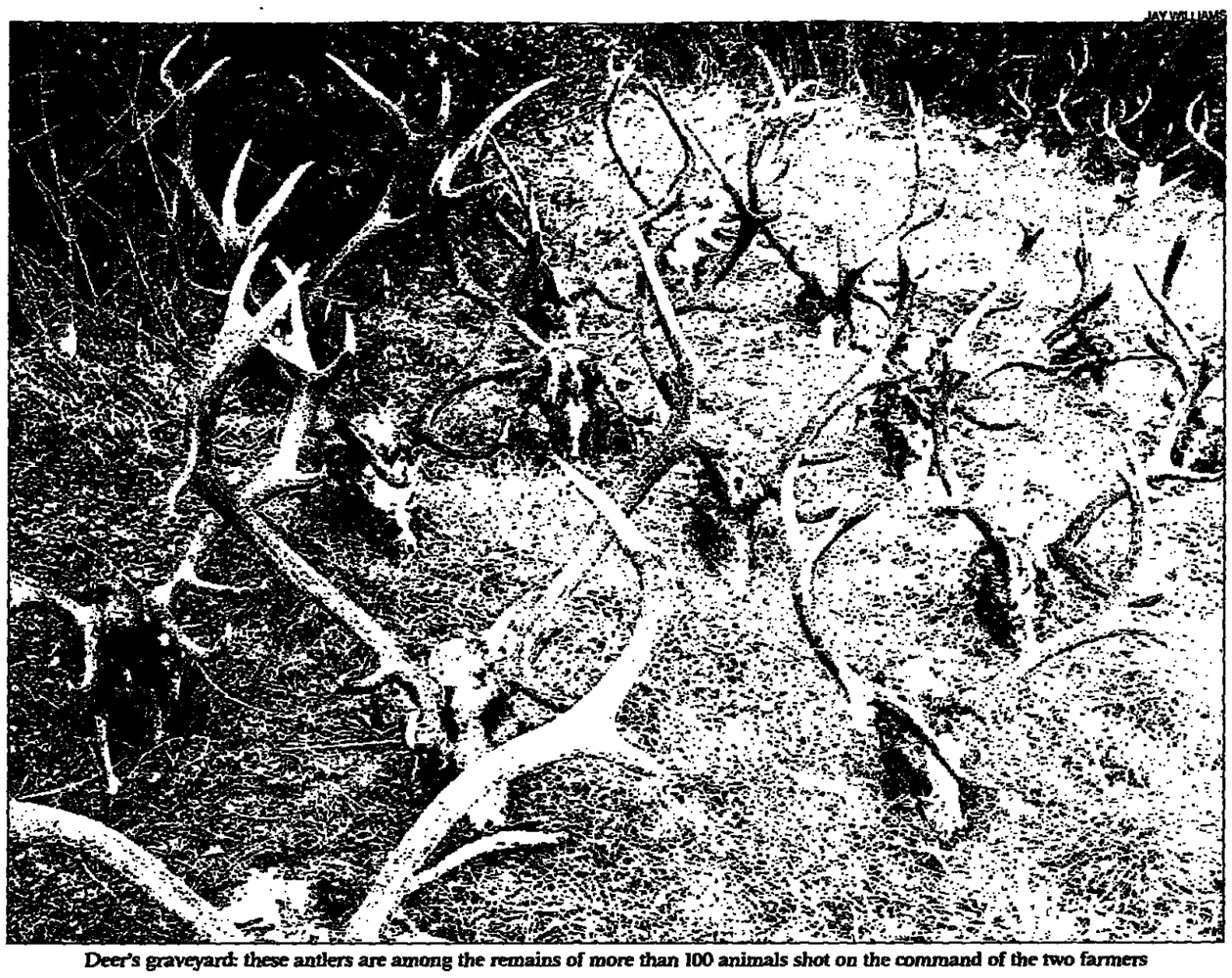
Chris Marrow, the Forestry Commission's district manager, was at the angry meeting of the Quantock deer management group last week when Mr Rowe revealed how many deer he had shot. He said: "Tempers have got to cool before we can have a rational discussion. Deer are in no danger of extinction, in fact their numbers are increasing in many parts of the country. It is likely that the number the Quantocks can sustain without hunters will be far fewer."

Nicholas Bucknall, 59, whose grandfather revived the Quantocks Staghounds during the First World War, fears history is repeating itself. He said: "After the staghounds disbanded in the 1880s, the deer all but vanished from the Quantocks. Farmer and landowners shot them and by 1917 there were fewer than 35 left. Lloyd-George's Liberal Government wanted the hunt re-established to provide an alternative source of meat. If you want to have deer, you have to have hunting.

"The National Trust introduced this ban simply to satisfy the 80 per cent of their members who live in Noddy boxes in Egham and places like that."

The League Against Cruel Sports yesterday accused Mr Rowe and Mr Bartlett of "emotional blackmail". Chief officer Graham Sirl said he was still unconvinced by the farmers' claim to have shot so many deer in such a short time, but added: "Only one animal is about to become extinct, and that is the hunter."

Letters, page 23



JAY WILLIAMS

Deer's graveyard: these antlers are among the remains of more than 100 animals shot on the command of the two farmers



Robert Rowe on his farm: "We won't be dictated to by people who know nothing of country ways"

Fifth Beatle bows out with an all-star finale

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR George Martin is to mastermind an album of Beatles songs to mark his retirement.

But the band's former producer will not be calling up the surviving members. Instead he is enlisting a diverse group of friends and heroes ranging from Billy Connolly and Sean Connery to Vanessa-Mae.

Sir George, 72, describes the album, *In My Life*, as his personal finale. "It does sum up my life in a way. When I decided to stop recording, I thought I might as well provide my own finale, a bit like a cricket benefit."

Also appearing will be Goldie Hawn, Robin Williams and Phil Collins. The making of the 12-track album is being featured in a BBC documentary produced by Disney which Sir George will present.

Goldie Hawn will perform a jazz ballad version of *A Hard Day's Night*, while Billy Connolly plays a circus ringmaster on *Being For the Benefit Of Mr Kite*. Sean Connery recites the lyrics of *In My Life* against an orchestral background while Jim Carrey does a version of *I Am The Walrus*. Sir George said: "I thought of songs and how they might suit particular people, people I like, people I admire. So it became an album, in the main, of friends and heroes. Just a shame that I could not reach Django Reinhardt, Miles Davis, Jimi Hendrix or Gary Cooper, Cary Grant or Rita Hayworth."

The guitarist Jeff Beck performs an instrumental version of *A Day in the Life* and the violinist Vanessa-Mae plays *Because*. Robin Williams and Bobby McFerrin sing *Come Together*. Phil Collins will perform a medley of *Golden Slumbers, Carry That Weight* and *The End*. Celine Dion sings *Here, There and Everywhere* and John Williams performs *Here Comes The Sun*.



Sir George has worked on more than 700 records

The inclusion of comedy stars reflects Sir George's early career as a producer for performers such as Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

It was in 1962 that he turned to pop music when he was asked to produce the latest signing for Parlophone Records, the little known Beatles.

The only new piece of music is an orchestral composition, *Friends and Lovers*, which Sir George wrote at his Montserrat home after the death of John Lennon in 1980. It is performed by the George Martin Orchestra.

Sir George's career spanned nearly half a century and he has lost count of the number of records he has produced. It is estimated to be more than 700, including *Candle In The Wind 97*, Sir Elton John's tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Women Buddhists in revived ceremony

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THREE British women are among 140 Buddhist novices being ordained as nuns in India in the first ordinations of their kind for eight centuries.

The women, who carry Tibetan Buddhist names but were formerly Rebecca Tisbury, 25, from London, Joyce Whelan, 40, from Kent, and Edith Hope, 40, from Scotland, flew out this week and will be ordained in Bodhgaya tomorrow.

They are among 12 European women taking part in the mass ordination ceremony, during which they will all swear 300 vows. The women, from the Samye Ling Buddhist temple near Lockerbie in Scotland, will join novices from 23 countries including Congo, Denmark, Spain, and America.

Ordaining women *bhikkhuni*, a higher ordination than the vows taken by many Buddhist nuns in Britain, has led to a debate in Buddhist circles comparable to the debate over women priests in Christianity.

Dog wash is howling success

BY TIM JONES

A MOBILE dog washing service set up with a £2,000 loan from the Prince of Wales's Youth Business Trust has won the scheme's award for the most unusual business.

Since starting the venture two years ago, Greg Booth, 34, and Joanna Hibberd have washed, dried and groomed more than 8,000 dogs from their base at Tythrop Park Farm, Kingsey, Oxfordshire. Using a converted post office van, they tour the region with a portable hydrobath which sprays the dogs with a high-pressure jet of water before they are shampooed and dried.

Their pet dog Buttons, a labrador and springer spaniel cross, is an important part of their team. He loves the whole business and jumps into the bath to encourage other dogs to follow him.

The couple stumbled on the idea while they were travelling through Australia and the service has become so popular they have a third partner. The standard charge for a wash is £10 but large hairy breeds, such as old English sheepdogs, can cost up to £30 if a haircut is also involved.

Mr Booth said: "The whole thing seems to have caught people's imaginations and we have every type of customer on the books. Things are going marvellously well."

Ms Hibberd added: "Buttons barks enthusiastically and encourages other dogs to submit to a wash, plus the owners love him. He was turned down as a hearing dog for the deaf because he was too boisterous, so this job is ideal."

The Prince's Trust said the award "recognised the ingenuity and uniqueness of Mobile Dog Wash's success". The trust was established 21 years ago by the Prince of Wales to help disadvantaged young people to achieve their full potential. It provided start-up grants for businesses and community groups and runs educational schemes and training courses.

TOP OF THE PETS

Britain has 2.3 pets per household, more than anywhere else in the world, a survey has found. France has two per household, America 1.9, Italy 1.4 and Russia 1.1. There are 50.6 million pets in Britain, of a much wider variety than in other countries, with dogs totalling only 13.2 per cent and cats 15.6 per cent. But with the cost of owning pets spiralling or, in the case of dogs, taking up too much spare time for walks, there has been a boom in low-maintenance animals, including goldfish and hamsters. Of America's 193 million pets more than one in four are dogs and a third are cats.

Pets, page 19

The PEP that likes to say NO

NO salesmen. NO commission. NO hassle.
And now, NO charge for transferring to our ISA.

To find out more about the Virgin Growth PEP, call us or return the coupon now.

Virgin direct personal financial services

0345 300 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

We'll be happy to send you a personal illustration of how the Virgin Growth PEP could work for you. Please let us have the following details and return the coupon to Virgin Direct, FREEPOST ANG4349, PO Box 161, Norwich NR4 6YN.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone No. _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone No. _____

_____ I'm thinking of investing £_____ a month (min £50)

Postcode _____ and/or £_____ as a lump sum (minimum £1,000)

From time to time Virgin Direct and other Virgin Companies may send you details of products and services offered by them. If you do not want to receive this information you should tick this box ☐

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. The tax status of PEPs will be subject to statutory change after 6 April 1999. You can invest in a Virgin PEP right up until April 1999 and, subject to government agreement, we'll be able to transfer some or all of your PEP to the new ISA free of charge. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Selling the Windsor legacy



Mohamed al-Fayed acquired the Windsors' possessions in order to create "a permanent memorial" to the man who gave up an empire for love. Why is this priceless collection being dispersed to souvenir hunters barely a dozen years later . . ?

Robert Lacey tells the troubled story of next week's sale of the belongings of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. News Review, tomorrow

Violence feared as Sinn Fein faces expulsion

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN'S suspension from the peace talks looked all but inevitable last night after Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, linked the IRA to two murders earlier this week in Belfast.

Sinn Fein intends to defend itself when the talks re-open in Dublin on Monday, and claimed that the peace process would be finished if it was removed. Last night the organisation threatened legal action if it was ousted.

But security sources said the evidence was so compelling that the British and Irish Governments would have no choice. They had been put in "an impossible situation".

The great risk is that the IRA will return to full-scale violence if Sinn Fein is ousted. "It's a huge question and we don't know the answer . . . There's very serious concern," admitted one security official.

One option is to assure Sinn Fein that it will be re-admitted if there are no more shootings; but the talks are nearing their final stages and Unionists are in no mood to tolerate a token suspension.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader said that Mr Flanagan's verdict led to "only one conclusion and only one outcome" — Sinn Fein's expulsion. He said that the republicans had been "given the opportunity to remain in the political process" but preferred to engage in "a sectarian tit-for-tat killing and a squalid gangland turf war over drugs. They prefer that to politics and democracy".

Jeffrey Donaldson, another UUP MP, said that if the Governments did not expel Sinn Fein his party might take legal action to enforce talks rules requiring a commitment to exclusively peaceful means.

On Thursday night Tony Blair telephoned President Clinton and Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, after Mr Flanagan had delivered his verdict.

The first of the murders was of a drugs dealer who had been taunting the IRA, but security experts are baffled as to why the IRA should have risked Sinn Fein's peace strategy by killing a senior loyalist paramilitary.

The Disappeared, page 18

BOMB FACTORY

Three bombmakers were jailed for 20 years yesterday for running an underground IRA bomb factory in the Irish Republic. John Conaty, 37, Gabriel Cleary, 54, and Bryan McNally, 56, all from Dublin, were caught at the site on a remote farm in Clonaslee, Co Laois. A fourth man got 12 years.

PAUL McERLANE



A soldier on patrol in Andersonstown. The fear is that the IRA will return to full-scale violence

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby died beneath drunk babysitter

A drunken babysitter who fell asleep on top of a three-month-old boy and suffocated him was jailed for 2½ years yesterday. Leanne Hughes, 17, returned from a party to find no sign of her son, Ashley, and the babysitter, Paul Saunders, asleep on the sofa. She then saw the baby's legs sticking out from beneath Saunders.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that the babysitter, who weighed 12 stones, had dozed off on the sofa after drinking a flagon of cider. Saunders, who was unemployed and had a drink problem, regularly babysat for neighbours. Saunders, 36, from Pontypool, South Wales, admitted child neglect.

Alert over flu-like virus

Health chiefs are monitoring outbreaks of flu-like symptoms in the South of England after a number of schools were hit by a virus that has caused classes to be cancelled. The Public Health Laboratory Service said that genuine influenza had remained at normal levels but flu-like symptoms — known in surgeries as "very persistent virus" — have been common in recent weeks.

Twins offered homes

More than 120 families have come forward offering a home to Ashton and Lauren Mills, whose mother is dying of cancer. The 10-year-old twins appealed in an Oxford newspaper for new parents to take over when their mother, Tobi, 43, who has cancer, dies. Miss Mills, from Blackbird Leys, Oxford, is a single mother and the children have never known their father.

Passport costs to rise

The cost of a standard 32-page passport is to rise by £3 to £21 and that of a 48-page passport by £4 to £31, Mike O'Brien, a Home Office Minister, disclosed in a Commons written reply yesterday. The charge for amending an existing passport is to rise from £5 to £11 while an additional charge of £10 is to be brought in for those applying for a passport in person or from abroad.

Racism victim wins

A black surveyor who was passed over for promotion at Bridgend County Borough Council, South Wales, despite being the only suitably qualified candidate, was awarded £41,000 compensation by an industrial tribunal after winning a claim of racial discrimination. Shelley Griffith, 30, who has his hair in dreadlocks, was allegedly told by colleagues: "Go back where you came from."

Frog fails to croak



This tiny tree frog has survived for eight years since being found in a bunch of bananas bought at a Cambridgeshire greengrocer's. It had arrived on a boat from the Caribbean and was given a home by Elsie and Alan Cawdron of March. Little Frog, as it is known, is one inch long and lives in a biscuit box. Banana frogs live for six to nine years in the wild.

DNA hunt for killer

Police are to carry out a further 1,500 DNA tests in the search for the killer of Kate Bushell, 14, whose throat was cut as she walked a neighbour's dog three months ago this weekend at Erwick, near Exeter. Detectives have so far taken 3,700 DNA samples from men mainly living within a half-mile of the murder scene.

Jealous boyfriend jailed

A man who stabbed his former girlfriend because she went out with another man was jailed for life. Angela Elstob suffered 14 wounds to her face, neck and arms. Scott Renney held three people hostage as he lay in wait for the mother-of-two at her home in Sunderland until she returned from a date, Leeds Crown Court was told.

Quarrying test case

A quarry company was ordered to stop working in a national park near the town of Bakewell, Derbyshire, to preserve the environment. The decision, by the Peak District National Park Authority, is being seen as a test case. RMC Roadstone, which has rights dating back to the 1950s to mine the area, is to appeal.

INTEREST FREE OPTION** ON A WIDE RANGE OF KITCHEN APPLIANCES

THE COMET PRICE

index

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

- Lowest sale prices guaranteed
- Over 100 of our best selling top brand products
- In the national newspapers every Saturday
- Updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425

SALE NOW ON

OVER 900 PRODUCT LINES REDUCED

BUY NOW PAY UP TO FEB 1999* ON A WIDE RANGE OF HOME ENTERTAINMENT

COMET

COMET IS THE BIGGEST OUT-OF-TOWN ELECTRICAL RETAILER, SO THERE'S BOUND TO BE A STORE NEAR YOU

For local store details, see Teletext Ch4 p425 or phone free on 0500 425 425.

Visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk

29.9% APR

THE COMET PRICE CANNOT BE BEATEN

EASY WAYS TO PAY

MONEY BACK WARRANTY

AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS



هكذا من الاصل

Murdered girl's father pins hopes on photofit

FROM SUSAN BELL IN RENNES AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Caroline Dickinson and the photofit picture of her suspected killer released in Brittany yesterday

THE father of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson yesterday begged the French people to look "long and hard" at his daughter's suspected killer as the murder hunt team released a photofit picture in Brittany.

John Dickinson, from Cornwall, attacked the waste of time since his 13-year-old daughter was raped and suffocated as she slept in a tiny shared dormitory in a hostel in Pleine Fougères 19 months ago. Now on his eighth trip to France, he believes that the police are closing in on the killer, who had probably been lying low in the region, relaxed that nobody knew his face.

"But he is going to be found out soon because people will recognise this photofit. I am very, very confident about it," he told a news conference in Rennes.

Mr Dickinson spoke of his anger at the delay in releasing the photofit and blamed Gérard Zaug, the investigating magistrate originally in charge of the case. The picture was composed from witness accounts by two fellow pupils and a teacher from Launceston College, Cornwall, who said they had noticed a man behaving strangely and hanging around the youth hostel at Pleine Fougères before the murder in July 1996.

Interviews with the pupils immediately after the attack were not translated into French so that descriptions of the attacker were overlooked for more than a year. "I am appalled," Mr Dickinson said. "I can only lay blame for the delay at the door of Judge Zaug who had the information but did nothing with it. I am very, very annoyed about the delays."

The murder case can be seen as not one, but two, strongly contrasting investigations: the first, headed by Judge Zaug was characterised by secrecy, uncertainty and stunning incompetence; the second, launched by his replacement Renaud Van Ruymbeke, has been marked by extraordinary energy and determination.

Judge Van Ruymbeke took over from Judge Zaug last August, after bitter complaints by the dead girl's parents and intense diplomatic pressure from Britain. The new magistrate brought with him a reputation as one of the best investigators in France, but given the litany of mistakes that preceded his arrival, he has faced an uphill, and perhaps impossible task.

From the start Judge Zaug, 43, made it clear he intended to run the investigation at his own pace: he declined to provide information, refused to confirm reports of similar attacks in the region and declined to say where his search was heading.

Just two days after the murder hunt began, police announced that the killer had been caught. Patrice Padé, a homeless man with a history of sex offences, had been arrested and had made a full confession, police gleefully announced. Judge Zaug declared the case solved.

Two weeks later DNA testing proved that M Padé was not the killer, and he was released. He later claimed the confession had been extracted under duress.

Judge Zaug flatly refused to order DNA testing of male inhabitants of Pleine Fougères, apparently on the grounds of expense. Police insisted they were continuing with their inquiries but John and Sue Dickinson, increasingly frustrated at the lack of progess, complained that Judge Zaug would not even discuss the case with them.

A month after the murder, a schoolgirl from Salford, who had been staying in a youth hostel a few miles away, said that she had been attacked on the same night. After attempting to suffocate her, the attacker had fled. It was not until December 1996, five months after the murder, that Judge Zaug announced an inquiry into that incident.

The Dickinson investigation has shown glaringly that the way a case is pursued, under the French legal system, depends almost entirely on the inclinations of the investigating magistrate.

FRANCK PREVEL/AP



John Dickinson, right, with his lawyer Rouzeaud le Boeuf in Rennes, looks at newspaper reports of the murder

Attacker is given life under 'two strikes' law

BY RICHARD FORD

A MAN who attacked a teenager in a YMCA hostel yesterday became the first person to be given an automatic life sentence under the "two strikes and you're out" law.

James Hall, 24, was jailed for an assault which occurred only 22 hours after the new Crime (Sentences) Act came into force. Under the Act, introduced by the previous Government, anyone convicted of a second serious sexual or violent offence receives an automatic life sentence unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Hall had only recently been released from jail when he stabbed Peter Smith, 18, at a hostel in Lincoln in October. He admitted wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Nicholas Dean, for the prosecution, told Lincoln Crown Court that Hall had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment in August 1994 for robbery with a firearm. This case brought Hall under the terms of the 1997 Act.

Prisoners given a life sentence spend 13 years in prison on average. The judge recommended that Hall serve a minimum of six years before being eligible to be considered for parole.

Cowgirl is jailed for pizza stick-up

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A DIMINUTIVE cowgirl in pebble glasses held up a pizza takeaway with her replica six-gun after an evening drinking at a country and western club.

Delia Kirby, just 4ft 10in, was dressed in western costume for the stick-up at Pizza Express in Norton, Teesside, just after midnight. Kirby, 24, a jobless single mother, was rounded up shortly afterwards by a posse of armed officers who had been called to the scene. When they seized her she said: "Get off, that's my Country and Western gear."

She was jailed for four years yesterday at Teesside Crown Court after she admitted robbing the shop of £20 and possessing a firearm to commit a crime. Judge Leslie Spittle told Kirby, who had no previous convictions: "Robbery with the use of an imitation firearm is so serious that it can only be met by a substantial period of imprisonment."

Stephen Constantine, defending Kirby, from Norton, said: "It is an unusual case, if not completely bizarre. She can only blame it on the drink."

I'll be your Valentine



Will you be mine?

Sponsor a dog like me today – and you'll gain a truly loving friend....

That's right, for just £1 a week you can sponsor an abandoned dog like me. You'll be helping the National Canine Defence League to give me, or another dog who may never be rehomed, a safe and happy life at one of its rescue centres. You'll also help the NCDL to care for other needy dogs. In return, you'll get a sponsor's certificate, updates on your dog – and a very faithful friend. So if you want true love for ever, sponsor a dog today.

YES, I'd L♥VE a best friend

☐ Please send me my FREE poster guide so I can choose a dog to sponsor today.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Address

Postcode

Please return this form to: Sponsor A Dog, NCDL, FREEPOST LON6996, PO Box 7012, London E1 8BR.

Registered Charity No. 224(2). 7982

NCDL National Canine Defence League

A Dog is for Life

THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE

GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY AT HOMEBASE.



FREE Return Flight to Paris
550 Air Miles awards (enough Air Miles for a direct return flight to Paris) when you buy a Complete Victoriana Bathroom Suite from £649

FREE Aiwa Bathroom Radio
When you buy a Triton Opal 9.5kw Electric Shower for £179

FREE 2 packs of Loft Panels (pack contains 3 panels)
When you buy a Stowaway Loft Ladder for £67.99

FREE Black & Decker Drill Bit Set and Carry Case
When you buy a Black & Decker KD300K Corded Drill for £64.99

£20 CASHBACK†
When you buy £30 worth or more of Stanley Dynagrip Hand Tools and a 22" Curver Toolbox at £19.99

3 bulbs for the price of 2
When you buy a pack of 3 Homebase Reflector Bulbs for £3.79 Normally £3.79 for a pack of 2

£3 CASHBACK†
When you spend £10 on any Polycell Product Polyfilla Light & Easy 300ml. Was £4.49 Now £3.99

FREE Foam Sprayer and Mixer Bottle
When you buy a Kew Kadet Pressure Washer for £99.95

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMEBASE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM†

*If you can find any of these offers at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. 1. See instore leaflet for terms and conditions. 2. While stocks last. 3. Foam Sprayer and Mixer Bottle worth £13.98 if purchased separately. 4. A8106 Drill Bit Set worth £10.99. Offers end 24/3/98. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. †Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store. AIR MILES and Flying Boat Logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International holdings N.V. AIR MILES awards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES customer terms and conditions.

هكذا من الاصل

Gullit says he learnt of sacking on Teletext

Chelsea manager denies he was greedy as club says his £2m demand worked out as £3.3m gross. **Adrian Lee** reports

RUUD GULLIT learnt of his sacking on Teletext, he disclosed yesterday as he admitted that he had demanded £2 million a year to stay as manager of the Premiership club.

Visibly upset, he told a press conference that his unexpected dismissal was not about money and insisted that he had not been greedy. "I gave this club a lot. I gave them success. I was expecting Chelsea to come back to make an offer ... if they had made me an offer, I would have stayed."

However Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, said later that Gullit's figure was £2 million a year net — and would have worked out at an unacceptable £3.3 million gross. The club had offered £1 million a year gross.

The Dutchman, who also earns £1.5 million a year off the pitch, shrugged off his £38,461-a-week net pay claim. When the club told him during discussions last week that it would have to begin looking for a new manager he thought it was "part of the bluff".

But his admission that the sum he asked for per week was almost double what the average worker in Britain earns a year, brought condemnation of football's inflated wages. "It is obscene," Sheila Spiers, vice-chairwoman of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), said. "He is a football coach, not a manager of industry."

Gullit's demand was by no means excessive in football terms, she said. At Liverpool, where she is a season-ticket holder, reports that the forward Robbie Fowler asked for £50,000 a week angered fans. "No player or manager is worth that sort of money," Ms Spiers said. "Eventually this financial bubble is going to burst."

Yesterday Gullit's only justification was the amount of money on offer to the game from television, up from £40 million to £120 million in the past five years. His £2 million demand was just a negotiating point and he did not really expect to get that much, he said. In any case, it was the same as he had wanted — but did not get — when he first signed for Chelsea as a player.

"Are you greedy?" he was asked at a press conference held at a club formerly owned by Terry Venables, a football coach who is no stranger to financial intrigue. Gullit, 35, looked affronted. "That is not true." The title of one of the sports books on a shelf behind him was *Out of Time: Why Football Isn't Working*.

David Mellor, head of the Government's football task force and a Chelsea supporter, who is reported to earn £500,000 a year as a writer and broadcaster, was also critical of Gullit. His demand was wholly unreasonable and made his departure inevitable, he said.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, defended Gullit. "It is all a question of judgment and balancing income and expenditure. I don't think anybody could say that the expenditure on Ruud Gullit by Chelsea was not good for the club."

He said top clubs had never received more income. The average wage for a Premiership player was about £175,000 a year, dropping to £23,000 in Division Three, he said.

Harry Redknapp, the manager of West Ham, said yesterday that managers' wages had fallen behind those of players but no coach was worth more than £1 million a year.

John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, said: "It is the only business where managers get less than the workers." He believed the sticking-point was Chelsea's desire for Gullit to give up playing and concentrate solely on managing — a move that might have had a considerable effect on his salary.

Gullit, a former Dutch international, refused to accept that his playing career was over.

Besides being dismissed by the club, he has also been ousted by the club shop. By today all photographs of him and Gullit football shirts will have been removed. Fans said it was an insult to the memory of the man who brought the FA Cup to Stamford Bridge last year.

Robert Crampton, page 22
Oliver Holt, Lynne Truss, page 33
Frank Leboeuf, Brian Glanville, page 36

PAUL HACKETT/REUTER



Biting the Gullit: the sacked Chelsea manager shrugged off his wage claims yesterday

WEEKLY SALARIES

Bernie Ecclestone	Formula One promoter	£1.04m
Sting	Singer	[illegible]
Lennox Lewis	Heavyweight boxer	£123,000
Jim Fitzsimmons	Chairman, Fulham FC	[illegible]
Damon Hill	Formula One racing driver	£100,000
Alan Shearer	England captain	£[illegible]
Ruud Gullit	Former Chelsea manager	£40,000*
Dennis Bergkamp	Arsenal striker	£[illegible]
Kenny Dalglish	Newcastle United manager	£16,000
	Average Premiership footballer	£[illegible]
David Jones	Southampton manager	£4,000
	Average Premiership footballer	£[illegible]
Jon Harley	Chelsea youth team player	£180
Giuliano Grazioli	Stevenage Borough striker	£368
	Average male earner, before tax	£368 pw

*wage demand

Cultures clash on the Olympic ice

Rob Hughes watches as the American hockey circus takes Japan by storm

THE heavyweights are in town, and the Nagano Olympics are embracing both American and Japanese culture as if they were entwined like the Olympic rings.

Yesterday in the "Big Hat" stadium, a capacity audience, excited beyond belief, watched the star players of America's National Hockey League, the ice hockey super league that has allowed 129 of its major players to perform at these Olympics in Japan, though competing for nine countries.

A week ago the Olympics began with a giant sumo wrestler, Akebono, wearing only a loincloth and his own bodyweight against the cold, stamping ritually on the ground to see out evil spirits. Now, given the ritualistic violence that is part of the American ice hockey entertainment, the evil could be said to be back, though packaged for public consumption. Yesterday, Team USA was beaten 4-2 by Sweden. The players barged one another into the hoardings, and the audience, predominantly impressionable young Japanese and Swedes, appeared to follow the manoeuvres ecstatically.

Meanwhile, Akebono, the Hawaiian-born sumo grand master, has announced his wedding. His petite but heavily pregnant Japanese fiancée appears in no way overawed by the bulk of her partner. So it is with the Swedes on the ice; they came back from a goal down to outplay and outscore Team USA, and it would have been a Swedish landslide had it not been for the remarkable reflexes of America's goal-tender.

The essence of the game, complained American followers, has not been allowed to cross the oceans. They are playing in a bigger arena, to which the Europeans are more accustomed.

Moreover the Swedes, like the Czechs, the Finns and the Russians, are mostly NHL professionals, and as Swede Peter Forsberg commented: "It's nothing new for me to be barged, though the fellow doing it to me today is my best friend in Colorado."

These Americans, and their adopted players, bring many a challenge to the Olympic ideals, let alone to the multi-cultural Games in Japan. The NHL average salary is more than $1 million (£600,000) per season and the average NHL player is accustomed to taking Sudafed, an over-the-counter stimulant. During the week, a snowboarder was stripped of his medal, then had it reinstated, as the International Olympic Committee got themselves into a fix over whether traces of cocaine in his urine constituted cheating through drug abuse. They found that the rules did not translate and the snowboarder will go back to America a hero.

The ice hockey players, the so-called dream team, will live in and share the basic facilities of the athletes' village in Nagano. This is the intended cross-pollination of the youth of the world, of performers from all backgrounds, creeds and colours, even if in this instance some of them have millions in the bank, and some can scarcely afford their equipment. "It certainly isn't the Ritz," said Eric Desjardins, a Philadelphia Flyers defence man, who is playing here for the expected hockey champions, Team Canada. "But somehow, knowing the guys, I think we can do without the little bottles of shampoo for a few nights."

NAGANO WINTER GAMES

On Monday night the NHL will present itself in the raw to a Japanese audience. There is enmity between the Americans and Canadians, even if they are team mates back home in the NHL. Canada's potential star forward, Paul Kariya, born in Vancouver of Japanese stock, is grounded in Canada because of concussion which his national team coach insinuates was deliberately inflicted by America's defence man Gary Suter, crashing his stick into the Canadian's face. And the purpose, claimed Bob Clarke, Canada's coach, was to put Kariya out to enable America to beat Canada.

Clarke speaks from experience. Arriving at an Olympics which is trying to stress the so-called Olympic Truce at a time when the forces of war are gathering in the Gulf, he is a man who, back in 1972, used his stick to break the leg of Russia's star forward at the start of a Soviet-US friendly tournament.

Sport, economy, politics and the people ... it is all in the melting pot of the revived ancient Olympic Games.

Olympics report, page 24

FREE 30 day trial with no obligation

WHICH?online www.which.net

Thinking Internet? Think Which? Online!

FREE unlimited Internet access for 30 days

FREE trial of invaluable Which? information on the Net

FREE CD tour of Which? Online

Which? Online is the Internet service brought to you by Which?, an organisation respected nationwide for its integrity and trustworthiness. Not only does Which? Online provide the speediest of access to the World Wide Web, an email address and the ability to create your own Web pages, it also gives you exclusive access to a wealth of consumer information on the Internet.

Return the coupon or call the number below and you'll receive a free CD giving you everything you need to get online – plus 30 days' free unlimited Internet access and Which? Online. We'll also send you a complimentary 'Beginner's Guide to the Internet' booklet. Reply today – access to the world's greatest library, and more, is just around the corner!

FREE 72 page 'Beginner's Guide to the Internet'

Internet access made easy

Sample the Internet and Which? Online for 30 days – free of charge

0645 830 256

Please quote reference number: PJ202

Please call the number above, or return this coupon to: Which? Online, FREEPOST, Hertford X, SG14 1YB.

YES! I would like a FREE CD giving me 30 days' FREE unlimited Internet access and Which? Online.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN CAPITALS

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other)

Forename(s)

Address

Postcode

PJ202

Please send me my free Which? Online CD for: ☐ PC ☐ Apple Macintosh

Your Computer Requirements You need to have a working IBM compatible personal computer running Windows™ or an Apple Macintosh running System 7.1 or higher. For PCs, the Internet access software takes about 8 megabytes of hard disk space and needs at least 8 megabytes of RAM to run. For Mac, you will need 10 megabytes of hard disk space and 16 megabytes of RAM. You will also need a modem.

The Internet service you can trust

WHICH?online www.which.net

e%cellent

average growth per year

Total growth 66.75% from launch on 9/1/95 to 9/1/98.

returns

Over 500,000 PEP investors' trust Halifax to make them an excellent tax-free return on more than £2 billion of their money.

In fact, £6,000 invested on 9/1/95 would have grown to £10,006.* To find out more about our ISA friendly PEP, just call us today.

CALL NOW FOR YOUR PEP PACK

0845 600

CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

HALIFAX

Get a little extra help.

Title | Forename(s)

Surname | Date of Birth

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel no. | Evening tel no.

www.halifax.co.uk *Figure quoted refers to both single company and general PEP investors. Halifax Unit Trust Management Limited, Registered in England No. 2752005. Registered office: Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RB. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. A member of the Halifax Financial Services Marketing Group which offers life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. Halifax Unit Trust Management Limited is a subsidiary of Halifax plc. To ensure we provide consistent customer service, calls may be recorded. Tax free means no UK taxes are paid on investment growth or income. Tax rules will change next year. †Figures are an average of the three Total Return Mandate funds: the Halifax Growth Trust, which has grown by 86.49% since launch on 9 January 1995, and Halifax Balanced Trust, which has grown by 85.37% since launch on 9 January 1995, and Halifax Enhanced Trust, which has grown by 70% since launch on 4 July 1996. ‡£10,006 based on £6,000 invested in the Halifax PEP Total Return Mandate from 9 January 1995 to 9 January 1998. Offer to bid and gross income reinvested. Calculations include charges and expenses on investment. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. You may get back less than the amount you invested.

هكذا من الاصل

We can't believe it's not yoghurt, say producers

The British dairy industry has no wish to market an item called 'fermented milk product', Peter Foster reports

BIO YOGHURT, one of the most commercially successful health products of the past decade, is to be renamed "fermented milk product" if an international food standards agency gets its way.

The dispute, which follows comparable rows over the labelling of milk chocolate, Cheddar cheese and crooked cucumbers, presents British dairy producers with an awkward marketing problem. Bio yoghurt is now the fastest growing sector of Britain's yoghurt market and is sold as a health-giving food that can aid digestion and protect against infection. The prospect of convincing British consumers of the life-giving properties of "fermented milk product" has left yoghurt producers nonplussed.

The proposals are the work of Codex, the food standards agency of the World Health Organisation, which aims to facilitate trade by standardising food products across the world. The European Union often adopts Codex recommendations, something that gives further cause for concern to yoghurt producers.

Codex has decided that bio yoghurt, which was developed by food scientists for its mild flavour, cannot be called "yoghurt" because it does not contain one of the bacteria traditionally used in yoghurt manufacture. Lobbying has already begun to try to stop what the British industry sees as an absurd resolution dreamt up in Rome.



Newitt: plans would cause chaos

Mike Newitt, managing director of Bridge Farm Dairies, which produces three million pots of yoghurt a week, claims the plans would throw his business into chaos. "We tried to meet them half way and suggested the term 'mild yoghurt' but they are insisting on 'fermented milk product'. We can't impose a ban on French and Italian exports because they don't produce any.

"We are putting pressure on the Ministry of Agriculture and there is a meeting in May when we will put our proposal again. Our feeling at the moment is one of absolute frustration. No one in the UK wants this," he said.

The Dairy Industry Federation explained that products had to meet Codex standards for international trade under the Gatt agreement. Last year Codex upset British cheese manufacturers when it tabled a ban on the use of unpasteurised milk in cheesemaking because of the risk of food poisoning. Several small cheesemakers claimed that the rules would put them out of business.

Edmund Komorowski, technical director of the federation, said the name "bio yoghurt" had become familiar to the British consumer and that any changes would be cumbersome and expensive. *"Fermented milk sounds to me like something that is thin and lumpy, not the rich, creamy product which consumers are used to when they buy bio yoghurt. We have government support but what is far from clear is if we have sufficient agreement among the international community to win the day," he said.*

Yesterday the Ministry of Agriculture said it would be supporting the cause of British producers at the next Codex meeting in May in Montevideo, Uruguay. A spokesman said the British delegation would be insisting on the compromise term "mild yoghurt" being included in the draft standard.

Richard Robinson, lecturer in applied microbiology at Reading Unviersity and co-author of *Yoghurt, Science and Technology*, explained the problem: "Traditional yoghurt, which dates back centuries and probably originates in India or the Middle East, contains two bacteria, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*.

"Until about ten years ago almost all yoghurts were made with these two, but in bio varieties the *bulgaricus* is replaced with from one of the *bifidum* bacteria to make it milder to taste."

It is the absence of the *bulgaricus* bacteria in bio yoghurt which has caused Codex to ask British producers to change their name.

Food and Drink, Weekend, pages 6 and 7
Jonathan Meades, Magazine, page 61

SOMETHING FOR EVERY TASTE

An estimated 500 million pots of yoghurt were sold in Britain last year. The average supermarket offers a bewildering choice including bio, live, natural, low fat, creamy, virtually fat free, and organic.

- **TRADITIONAL:** milk is fermented using two bacteria, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*, that give the yoghurt its distinctive acidic flavour. Under the proposed Codex regulations this will still be labelled "yoghurt".
- **BIO:** devised for sweeter tastes. Made using the *Streptococcus thermophilus* and one of the *bifidum* bacteria that produces a milder, less acidic flavour. Many companies have marketed bio yoghurts as health products, claiming that they boost the levels of "friendly" bacteria in the gut, helping to improve digestion, reduce infections and even cut the risk of long-term disease such as stomach cancer and irritable bowel syndrome.
- **LIVE:** almost all yoghurts contain "live" cultures. However, some yoghurts are pasteurised after fermentation to give them a longer shelf life and should be clearly labelled as such.
- **VIRTUALLY FAT FREE:** contains 0.1g of fat per 100g (3.5oz) of product.
- **CREAMY:** thicker yoghurts generally contain more fat, often between 5 and 10 grams per 100g.
- **GREEK-STYLE:** made from wholemilk and enriched with cream. Can contain up to 10g of fat per 100g.
- **ORGANIC:** produced using natural methods on farms that avoid using chemicals contained in modern pesticides and fertilisers.
- **NATURAL:** not be confused with organic. Generally used as a euphemism for unflavoured yoghurt.



Beat it: Simon Tegala in front of the screen in London. "It's about people being alive really and being made aware of that," he said

Heart for art's sake on Valentine's Day

SIMON TEGALA has designs on being an art throb on Valentine's Day. The artist, a graduate of Goldsmiths College, today begins to broadcast his heart rate on a giant electronic screen above a busy junction in Central London.

He will wear a heart rate monitor 24 hours a day for a fortnight: his activities will affect the figure that is flashed up on the screen. If he is resting, it will be around 50, if walking up steps, around 110, and "when cycling or doing something extremely strenuous", perhaps 199.

But, he said, "there is no indication of what I'm doing". Passers-by will have to guess as they watch the screen on the Concord Sylvania building in High Holborn.

Inspiration came to him one day, he explained: "I thought, wouldn't it be amazing if I could stick my heart rate there for 24 hours and have people thinking 'wow, there's a heart rate'. It's about people being alive really and being made aware of that — particularly in London. As a city, it's quite cold, emotionally cold."

Philip Delves Broughton, page 22
Weekend, pages 9 and 11

ACUVUE DISPOSABLE LENSES

ACUVUE DISPOSABLE LENSES

IF YOU WEAR DISPOSABLE CONTACT LENSES YOU WILL NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE

And what a difference! Ordering your replacement disposable lenses direct could save you between 25% and 40% on the price of leading brands including Acuvue, Surevue, Focus, Bausch & Lomb and Precision UV.

What's more, when you order from Direct Lenses we will even deliver your replacement lenses direct to you at home or at work.

And you can be sure you'll receive the highest quality products – Direct Lenses is run by UK qualified opticians who give the highest priority to eye care.

So to discover how you can enjoy the savings and convenience of our disposable contact lens replacement service, send for your free, no obligation information pack.

Call us now or complete the coupon below:

0870 902 20 20

Please quote reference TAC2. Calls charged at national rate

direct lenses
The contact lens replacement company

Please send me my Direct Lenses information pack NOW! I understand that I will be under no obligation to purchase. Please use block capitals.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Surname ..... Forenames .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Telephone (Day) ..... Telephone (Eve) .....

Send to FREEPOST DIRECT LENSES, PO BOX 14011, LONDON SW11 1YZ or call us on 0870 902 20 20

You may receive further offers or information about Direct Lenses or associated companies through the post. If you do not wish to receive such offers please tick this box ☐

TAC2

FACTORY PRICES

ADVENT PCs NOW DIRECT FROM PC WORLD!

You can now get the latest technology at factory prices AND still get the very best in service. Try before you buy, take your new PC home today and get FREE on-site service too!

Pentium II value as you've never seen it before!

Advent 233MHz Intel Pentium II Processor
- 32Mb SDRAM
- 512k Cache
- 3.2Gb UDMA Fujitsu Hard Disk
- 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- Intel LX Motherboard
- 15" Digital Monitor
- 33.6Kbps Modem
- 4Mb AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 50W PMPO Speakers
- MS Windows 95 plus Lotus Smartsuite, Incoming 3D, Compton Encyclopedia and more

MODEL: 8300

£999 EX. VAT

£1173.83 INC. VAT

Advent 333MHz Intel Pentium II Processor
- 64Mb SDRAM
- 512k Cache
- 6.4Gb UDMA Fujitsu Hard Disk
- 24 x Panasonic CD-ROM
- Intel LX Motherboard
- 15" Digital Monitor
- 56Kbps Modem
- 4Mb AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 50W PMPO Speakers
- MS Windows 95 plus Lotus Smartsuite, Incoming 3D, Compton Encyclopedia and more

MODEL: 8500

£1529 EX. VAT

£1796.58 INC. VAT

PLUS ALL THE STRENGTHS OF PC WORLD!
- Try before you buy – and take it home today.
- Free 12 months on-site service.
- Expert Advice and Helpline.
- Upgrade Centres in every store.
- Interest Free option.†

MMX™ intel inside pentium II processor

VISIT ANY PC WORLD SUPERSTORE- OVER 40 NATIONWIDE, RING 0990 464 464.

ABERDEEN, BIRMINGHAM JUNCTION 9 OFF M6, BRISTOL, CANTERBURY, CARDIFF, CHATHAM, COLCHESTER, COVENTRY, DERBY, DONCASTER, EAST KILBRIDE, EDINBURGH, GATESHEAD, GLASGOW, HUDDERSFIELD, HULL, IPSWICH, LEEDS, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, MERRY HILL-DUDLEY, NORTH SHIELDS, NORTHAMPTON, NORWICH, NOTTINGHAM, OLDHAM, PETERBOROUGH, PLYMOUTH, PORTSMOUTH, POOLE, PRESTON, READING, SHEFFIELD, SLOUGH, SOUTHAMPTON, SPRUCEFIELD, STOCKPORT, STOKE, SWINDON

LONDON AREA: GUILDFORD, BRENTFORD, LAKESIDE, CROYDON, STAPLES CORNER, ENFIELD

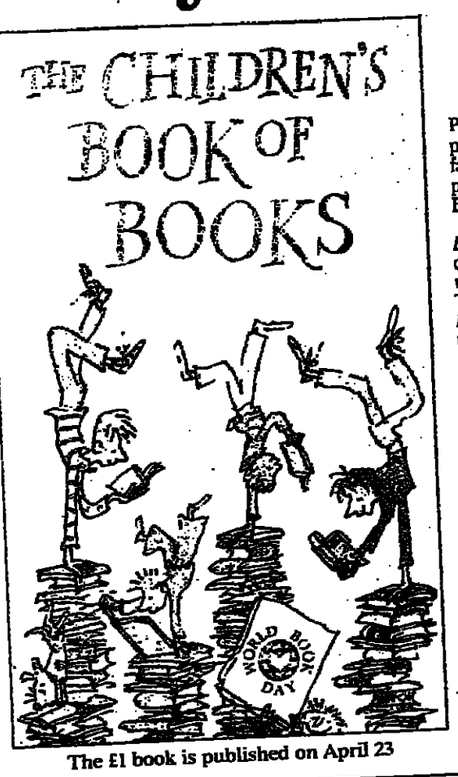
PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

†UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION – with no deposit on all products over £250. Account is interest free if repaid in full before the 6th/9th/12th monthly payment. Options are as follows: 6 months for products £250-£699; 9 months for products £700-£1299; 12 months for products over £1300. Typical example: Cash price £1500, no deposit, 11 monthly payments of £50.71, Balance of £942.19 to be paid before or with the 12th payment. 0% interest. Total paid £1500. OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12 month option period. Cash price £1500. 48 monthly payments of £50.71. Total amount paid £2434.08. All loans subject to status. APR 29.9%. Written Credit quotations are available on request from. Dept. MK/PCW, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7TG.

هكذا من الاصل

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin

Ministers and celebrities will reveal their childhood favourites on World Book Day, says **Dalya Alberge**



The £1 book is published on April 23

POLITICIANS, pop stars and presenters are to reveal their favourite childhood titles in a publication marking World Book Day.

The Children's Book of Books will offer amateur psychologists a host of opportunities. Tony Blair chooses Tolkein's epic *Lord of the Rings*, where "Middle Earth is under threat from the forces of Darkness" and the reluctant hero Frodo has to save the world.

Alastair Campbell, the Government's Chief Press Secretary — who once wrote soft-porn articles — selects M.K. Brown's *Let's Go Swimming with Mr Silly Pants*. Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, picks C.S. Lewis's fantasy *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

Whether their recommendations achieve their aim of encouraging children to read remains to be seen. But any analysis may be complicated by Geri Halliwell of the Spice Girls and Liam Gallagher of Oasis sharing Mr Mandelson's choice. The Minister said he was "totally engrossed on both occasions I read it". Miss Halliwell said the book was "pure magic, with such heart".

For the Prime Minister, his book was one "of great imagination and surprise which I enjoyed reading as a child ... It has given me equal pleasure to read with my own children."

Mr Campbell gives little away in discussing his choice:

Books ..... Metro pages 15-21

"It is colourful, funny, bears retelling and all three of my children have enjoyed it."

Unlikely as it may seem, Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has something in common with Chris Evans, the television and radio presenter: they both share a love of Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*. Ms Short said: "It moved me deeply — the cruelty and the kindness. I read it again and again. I suppose it is a child-friendly book about the battle between good and evil." Jarvis Cocker of Pulp chooses Ian Serraillier's *The Silver Sword*, the story of four children's struggle to stay alive through the Nazi occupation of Poland, because "we used to read it out loud in class and I really liked doing all the foreign accents".

Phil Collins chose Amanda Vesey's *Hector's New Trainers*. He said: "I like this book because it shows the shortcomings of 'hero-worship' and 'peer pressure', both of which affect the young and vulnerable."

Trevor Nunn, director of the National Theatre, chooses J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* as "a book to set children of any age dreaming", and Stephen Fry, the writer and actor, says Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* has "character, plot, adventure, suspense, humour and writing of a kind that should make any living writer blush".

The astronomer Patrick Moore opts for Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Tanglewood Tales*, based on the Greek legends, as he could "picture" the scenes and events as a child: "I still enjoy them!"

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, chose Jack London's *White Fang* about a wolf cub who is "thrust into a savage world where each day becomes a fight to stay alive". For Mr Blunkett, "this brings alive both the glory and the cruelty of nature".

Jeffrey Archer is there with Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*: "I always admired the fact that even though Hans Christian Andersen could not spell his name until well into his twenties, his fairy tales proved that you don't have to be a great writer to be a good story-teller. *The Ugly Duckling* is the classic rags to riches tale."

Martin Bell, the war reporter turned Independent MP, who went for Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. "Fables for children of all ages ... they explain things and make them understandable. As a politician who walks by himself, I read them to this day with the greatest pleasure." *The Children's Book of Books* is published on World Book Day on April 23, trumpeted as "the biggest ever book initiative mounted by the publishing and bookselling industry in the UK".

The book, published by Penguin Books and Random House, costs £1. Every child and young person in school that day — more than 10.5 million — will receive a £1 book voucher to buy it or to use towards the purchase of another title. The day will feature events and celebrations throughout Britain.



Liam Gallagher and Geri Halliwell both chose *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, centre. The book was also picked by Peter Mandelson

Parents failed by their nights back in school

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS' evenings at schools are failing to deliver enough information and instead make some grown-ups feel like frightened children.

Parents feel under pressure to be on their best behaviour because they fear a poor impression will colour the teachers' view of their children, a study says. In the end, limited time often means they receive only superficial details.

The study by Alison Clark and Sally Power of Bristol University says parents would rather have regular feedback on the [illegible] visits than [illegible] parents' evenings. Parents' evenings seem to be organised for the convenience of teachers rather than parents and provide scant opportunities for meaningful dialogue. Recent legislation does not appear to have made school reports more accessible to parents."

One parent told researchers: "You have to remember that some of the parents went to that school and it is like torture having to go back."

The researchers also found widespread concern from parents about "bland" feedback from teachers. One commented: "It seemed that if your child is behaving and do reasonably well, there is nothing much to be said."

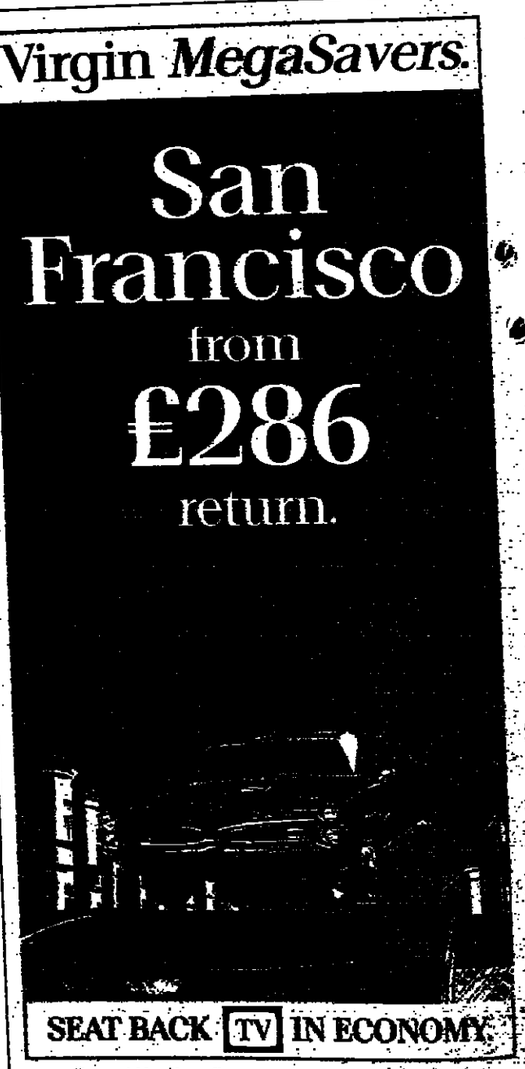
In a survey of 183 school one-fifth held the events immediately after the school day, making them impossible for some working parents to attend. Overall, 75 per cent of parents regularly attended, falling to 20 per cent at some inner-city comprehensives.

Three-quarters of the schools sent home at least two reports on children each year. But parents were dismayed by the growing use of computerised reports with standard phrases. One commented: "I think they [put] the phrase first and the child second."

Concern about poor turnout at parents' evenings led one school, not among those surveyed, to link up with local supermarkets to attract families. Both Tesco and Kwiksave in Hull's Orchard Park estate gave out hourly reminders in the days leading up to parents' evening at Sir Henry Cooper School. The result was a 30 per cent improvement in attendance.

David Bird, the head teacher, said: "We realised that not all the letters sent home with pupils were getting through."





هكذا من الاصل

There's no smoke without ire

Natural rival says Inhalator will soon run out of puff, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

THE latest wonder cure for Britain's 13 million smokers — a hand-held plastic inhaler containing nicotine — has been denounced by a widow who holds the patent for the country's first dummy cigarette.

Louise van Hoorn's late husband was one of the century's greatest unsung inventors, his designs including the clip-on roof rack and the shoe polish tin clip. Twenty-five years ago, P. H. C. van Hoorn, suffering from emphysema blamed on his 60-a-day habit, developed a dummy cigarette filled with menthol, eucalyptus, aniseed and peppermint. The dummy, called the Everlasting Cigarette, is still handmade by his daughter Geraldine, 42, at her home in Basingstoke.

The heavily advertised arrival of the Nicorette Inhalator nine weeks ago did not worry the family. Pharmacia & Upjohn, the multinational drugs company, has sold 500,000 Nicorette Inhalators — twice as many as it expected. But Mrs van Hoorn, who is in her 70s and has never smoked, was scathing when she read the small print. "I can't imagine anybody who is able to use it," she said.

The instructions say the Inhalator is unsuitable for women who are pregnant or breast-feeding, and anyone under 18. Smokers are told to seek professional advice before using it if they are trying to become pregnant, have suffered from heart, circulatory or stomach problems, high blood pressure, chest pains and other complaints. Side effects may include coughs, headaches, mouth ulcers, depression, vomiting, skeletal pain, wind and hiccups. The Everlasting Cigarette carries no health risk.

"When you read through this, you think who will be able to do this? The majority of people giving up smoking have had something wrong with them," Mrs van Hoorn said. "It doesn't look like a cigarette. It looks like a pen," she added.

Her husband invented the dummy cigarette because he felt that the agony of giving up smoking could be eased if smokers had something to occupy their hands. At first, only *Exchange & Mart* would accept advertisements for the dummy. Magazines were wary of upsetting big-spending cigarette firms.

As the tide turned against smoking, the dummy cigarette became more popular and thousands were sold. They are popular in Malta and are about to go on sale in Zambia. The dummy, which lasts up to three months, is sold by mail order for £10. After the launch of a rival called Crafe Away, which costs £1.99 but lasts four weeks, Mrs van Hoorn produced Kwit-It, which costs £2.99.

The Nicorette Inhalator costs £5.95 for a starter pack with six cartridges. Smokers are expected to use six to 12 cartridges a day. Jonathan Foulds, a senior lecturer in clinical psychology at the University of Surrey, said the Inhalator was more suitable for heavy smokers than a dummy cigarette because it tackled nicotine dependence.

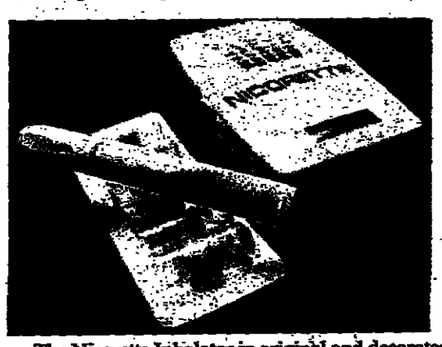
Mr van Hoorn died of emphysema eight years ago at the age of 75, disappointed only that his greatest invention had not caught on: an eternal razor blade kept sharp by an arrangement of magnets.

☐ *Everlasting Cigarette Company 01737 842728. Nicorette Inhalator 0800 2448387.*

GILL ALLEN



Caitlin Moran, second left, and friends strike a pose with their customised Nicorette Inhalators, nicknamed Ciggy Stardusts. Moran declares them sexily futuristic







The Nicorette Inhalator in original and decorated form, and the cut-price version of the Everlasting Cigarette, developed 25 years ago

ROBOSNOUT: THE GREATEST DRAW AT THE BRIT AWARDS

Caitlin Moran on a surprise hit with the trendsetters

AT THE *Brit Awards, groups of pop stars and music-business monkeys were huddled around tables, swapping small capsules and brandishing what looked like large, suspiciously fat cigarettes.* Cerys Matthews from Catatonia was elegantly toking on one, likewise Neil Hannon from Divine Comedy; and Pete Wiggs from St Etienne was offering £5 for a spare capsule.

This isn't a new drugs craze — there isn't one of those due until 2001. No, this is the rise of the plastic substitute cigarette. While many under-40s were roundly unimpressed with nicotine gum, and seemed oddly unenthusiastic about wearing manky, flesh-coloured patches, cigarette substitutes are starting to attract a cancer-fearing fan base that could rival old-fashioned, steam-powered cigarettes within a year.

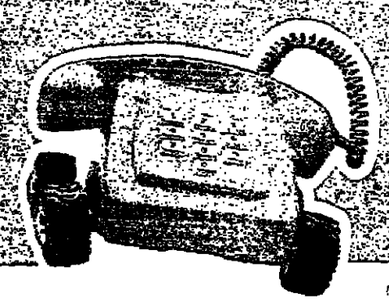
The reasons are manifold. They look so sexily futuristic: a Marlboro is like an old man's relic from the Second World War compared to the RoboSnout, or Ciggy Stardust, as I've taken to calling them. The decorative possibilities are endless — nail varnish, sequins, glue and glitter can all be employed to give you a truly personal and unique gasper. A canny manufacturer would look into the possibilities of making glow-in-the-dark models for rave bunnies; or mirrored ones for ladies to check their make-up.

Healthwise, you're laughing. Clubbers can dance all night without having to go off into the lavatory and wheeze for 20 minutes. And as anyone who has entirely given up smoking will confirm, you soon realise that half the giddy horror of hangovers is a) finding burn holes in your tights where you drunkenly dropped a lighted fag without noticing; but mainly b) waking up with gluey chest disgustingness from having smoked too much. Even the minsiest Ultra Low smoker will, after a bottle of vodka, puff happily on a Benson's Tarmac Special. But now, you awake fairly chipper and your breath no longer smells like a bag lady left out in the rain.

The greatest thing about Fag 2000 — and one that I'm sure will horrify the manufacturers for all of 30 seconds — is that it allows your nicotine life to *expand* into previously forbidden sites. Buses! The Tube! Non-smoking sections in restaurants! Hospitals! Long-haul flights! For those who happily admit they're of weak character, and need something to be pathetically dependent on — something with fiddle value and in-built cool — the plastic fag is the greatest invention since, well, cigarettes.

WE DON'T HAVE THE GIFT OF THE GAB

For a straightforward pension, call us.



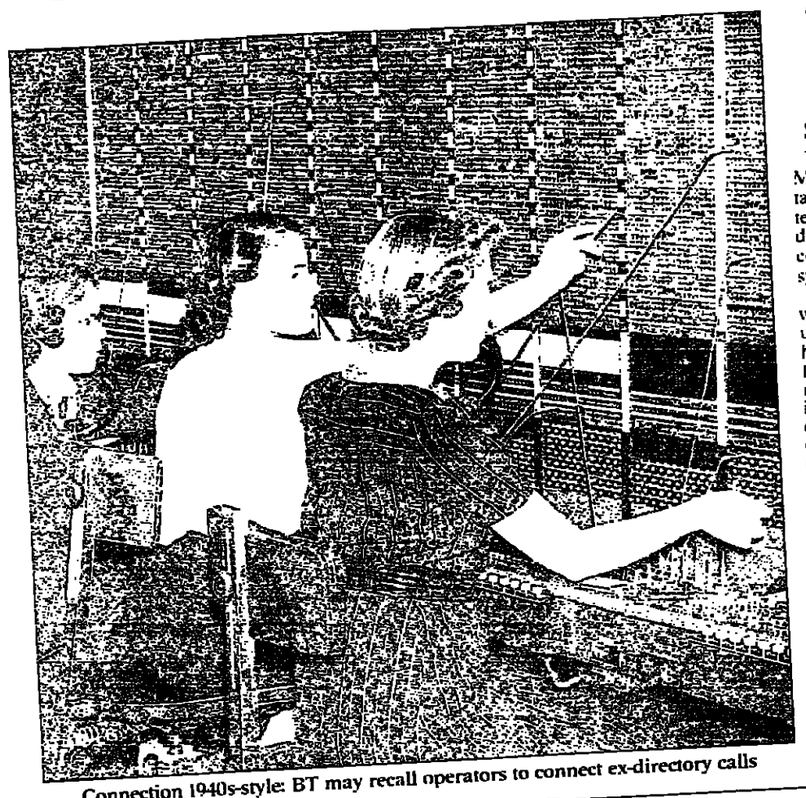
0845 3000 333

Please Quote Ref No: PTM07

DIRECT LINE

Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5SE. Tel: 0845 3000 333. Registered in England No 2199286, Registered Office: 3 Edridge Road, Croydon CR9 1AG. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited markets only its own products and offers investment advice only about its own products. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For your added security all telephone calls are recorded. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

Millions call for privacy



Connection 1940s-style: BT may recall operators to connect ex-directory calls

The alarm bells are ringing at BT as demand grows for ex-directory services, writes **Dominic Kennedy**

MILLIONS of Britons are taking themselves out of the telephone book as an ex-directory number becomes the country's newest status symbol.

BT is so alarmed that it is to write to ten million customers urging them to keep their home numbers available. London now has the highest rate of ex-directory numbers in the world, with 56 per cent of residential telephone owners choosing to stay out of the book.

Among solutions being studied by Oftel, the Government regulator, which is also keen to reverse the trend, is the return of the "hello girls" from the days of manual telephone exchanges.

These operators would dial ex-directory customers and give them the choice of being connected to a caller. 61 per cent of unlisted telephone users told Oftel they would like such a service.

A more extreme option is to charge people for the privilege of being excluded from the directory, which is already the norm in France, North America and Hull.

Ex-directory numbers among Britain's 20 million residential telephone owners have risen from only 24 per cent in 1991 to 37 per cent now. "Social cachet is an element. Privacy equals exclusivity," said BT.

After London, the highest rates are in Birmingham (49 per cent ex-directory) and Liverpool (41 per cent).

Manchester and Northern Ireland are close to the national average with 38 per cent. The Scots and the West Country are among the most open of Britons, with only 26 per cent of Exeter phone numbers unlisted and 20 per cent in Aberdeen. The lowest rate is in the Isle of Man where just 18 per cent are ex-directory.

"The urban nature of the trend suggests that people are concerned about having their address in the book, not so much their phone number," said BT. "Some people do it to prevent telemarketing and cold calls."

The company is worried about a threat to its £100-a-second profits if too many people make themselves difficult to ring at home.

The telecommunications giant also faces mounting anger from callers to its directory inquiries service. BT charges people to tell them that somebody is unlisted. The cost of not being given a number will rise from 25p to 35p next Wednesday.

This spring the company will write to its 10 million most talkative residential phone owners, urging them against becoming ex-directory.

If people are frightened that burglars or ex-husbands will find their home addresses, BT will recommend its "directory inquiries only" service.

Such customers are excluded from the phone book but their numbers can be obtained by ringing 192. Oftel found that 21 per cent of ex-directory customers would use this service.

The same proportion would go in the book if they could avoid being called by salespeople. BT will write suggesting they register with the voluntary Telephone Preference Scheme, which compiles a nationwide "banned" list for cold-callers.

Abroad, being ex-directory is much rarer. In Canada it costs $5.75 (£2.40) a month to be unlisted. In Italy, customers have to apply to the police for permission to go ex-directory. In Germany, telephone owners have to "opt-in" to telemarketing, actually volunteering to be put on a register for unsolicited sales calls.

In Hull, which for decades had Britain's only independent municipal telephone exchange, Kingston Communications charges £5 a year for customers to be excluded from its "White Pages". As a result, only 23 per cent of the 141,000 residential customers opt for privacy.

That example could be followed by larger companies. Oftel said a European directive permitted charging for ex-directory services, as long as the cost was low enough not to be prohibitive.





Numbers are now more personal than public

WILSON'S OPEN GOVERNMENT

A GENERATION ago, civil servants were so open that nearly half of Harold Wilson's 1968 Cabinet listed their home telephone numbers in *Who's Who* (writes Dominic Kennedy). A voter who wanted to contact Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Minister of Technology, or Judith Hart, the Paymaster General, had only to visit the reference library. Most of the ministers included their home addresses.

Charlotte Burrows of A&C Black, the book's publishers, said people were now giving after bombings scared by stories that copies of the book had been found in IRA houses. "Some years ago they had an out-of-date edition of *Who's Who* and the person they were trying to bomb had moved," she said.

Only one Cabinet Minister today lists his number in the book: Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. But a call to his council flat in central London uncovered a last line of defence unavailable to Wilson's team: an answering machine.

How to get a brand new home without moving.

Switch your mortgage to Alliance & Leicester and transform your existing home.

You don't have to move to get a brand new home, just move your current mortgage.

Switch your mortgage to Alliance & Leicester and we'll give you up to 5% cashback of the amount you borrow.

You could be walking away with a cheque for a huge £15,000. Enough to transform your existing home, go on a luxury holiday or spend in any way you want.

On top of this, we'll also refund your Option 1 Valuation Fee. And it's all available when you take out our basic variable mortgage, currently 8.70% (9.1% APR).

Switching is simple. Just call in to your local Alliance & Leicester branch and ask us about our Cashback mortgage.

For further information, phone us free on 0800 412 214.

UP TO £15,000 CASHBACK.

http://www.alliance.leicester.co.uk

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Terms and conditions: Rates and APR's are shown for residential mortgages. APR's quoted are for mortgages on an interest only basis, although our mortgages are also available on a repayment basis. For interest only mortgages an appropriate Personal Equity Plan (PEP), pension plan or endowment policy for the amount and term of the loan must also be arranged (contributions/premiums will be payable to the company involved). The APR's and the total amount payable have been calculated on the basis that our basic variable rate will be the same as the rate stated throughout the term of the mortgage. The APR quoted may be slightly different if your circumstances differ from the assumptions on which the example below is based. Rates and information are correct at time of going to press. Our mortgages are only available to new customers or to existing borrowers moving home. Your home is security for the loan and must be adequately insured. Loans are subject to status and valuation and are only available to people aged 18 or over. Written quotations available on request. A minimum loan of £20,000 applies but does not apply to existing borrowers. An application fee of £195 will be deducted from the Cashback at completion. The valuation refund is limited to the value of our Option 1 Valuation and is payable on completion of your mortgage. To qualify for a valuation refund, Alliance and Leicester must choose and instruct the valuer (procedures differ in Scotland). The valuation refund offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other valuation refund offers. Unless you have received an Offer of Loan, we reserve the rights to withdraw these mortgage offers without prior notice. For loans exceeding 90% of the purchase price or valuation (whichever is the lower) a High Percentage Loan Fee will be charged. This product is restricted to a 90% of the purchase price or valuation (whichever is the lower). In some instances, it is not possible to retain mortgage tax relief on remortgages, and it may effect your entitlement to Housing Benefit, in the unlikely event that you need to claim it from the DSS. In the example, the total amount payable includes valuation charges: £160.00, solicitor's mortgage charge: £117.50, deeds production charge: £50.00 and redemption and sealing charge: £60.00. Example: £49,000 interest only loan for 25 years on a property valued at £55,000 at an interest rate of 8.70% (9.1% APR) (variable) with the first monthly interest only payment of £5e4.50 (gross) (including accrued interest). Followed by 299 payments of £355.25 (gross). Total amount payable is £156,186.69. Cashback payable on completion, with £195 application deducted, equals £2,255. If the mortgage is redeemed in whole or part within the first 4 years a Repayment Fee will be charged at our basic variable rate. In the first year this will be charged at 7 months' gross interest, followed by 6,5 and 4 months' gross interest in the second, third and fourth years respectively. If you do not wish to take on this kind of obligation you may prefer our basic variable rate or No Repayment Fee mortgages. After the first 12 months the Repayment Fee will be waived if you move home and immediately take out your new mortgage with us. Full details about our range of mortgages, any promotional offers, the fees and charges mentioned above and any conditions/restrictions which apply are available at your local branch. For security and training purposes all telephone calls between you and Alliance and Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded/monitored. Alliance and Leicester plc, Customer Services Centre, Narborough, Leicester, LE9 5AS. Alliance and Leicester Marketing Group, consisting of Alliance and Leicester plc and Alliance and Leicester Life Assurance Company Limited, which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, and Alliance and Leicester Unit Trust Managers Limited, which is regulated by IMRO, only sells its own life assurance, pensions, unit trust and PEP products. Alliance and Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ. Company No: 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association. February 1998.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



When you're looking for a hardwood floor with low maintenance, Woodstock have the expertise and product range you deserve. A nationwide team of qualified craftsmen ensure a rapid and straightforward installation with minimum fuss. The result - a beautiful and durable floor, adding value to your home with a look that will never date

- Available in block or plank in mahogany, red oak, natural oak, maple, walnut, beech and cherry, to name but a few
- An average room normally installed in a single day
- Up to 10 year wear warranty, suitable for both domestic and commercial use
- Comprehensive credit terms available. Written details available on request
- Select from large samples in the comfort of your own home
- Nationwide sales & installation service
- Free home estimating service without obligation

*Branded products only

FREEFONE 0500 678967

FOR YOUR BROCHURE OR FREE SURVEY AND QUOTATION

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

Subject to status. Written details on request.

SHOWROOM OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - CALLERS WELCOME

Showroom: Dunsons Estate, Unit 4, Colonial Way, North Circular Road, Chingford, London E4 8QE

WOODSTOCK Floors Limited

MAKING HARDWOOD FLOORS AFFORDABLE

صكذا من الاصل

Restoration row as water defaces Giotto frescoes

Environmental damage is destroying a second set of the Italian's masterpieces, but the cure is also blamed, **Richard Owen** writes

SIX months after the earthquake at Assisi that damaged priceless frescoes by Giotto, a second pivotal cycle of masterpieces by the medieval genius is being destroyed, this time by the twin forces of water and humidity.

Experts confirmed this week that the Giotto frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel at Padua are deteriorating badly. "There is a huge pool of water under the chapel," said James Beck, Professor of Art History at Columbia University in New York and a noted authority on Italian art. "It is 7ft deep, I've seen it with my own eyes." He said that the Paduan authorities are "trying to do someting about it, but I'm afraid they are making matters worse. The cure is worse than the disease."

Local restorers admit that the frescoes — regarded as one of the high points of European art — are at risk partly from water beneath the chapel, which seeps in from the nearby Piovego river, and partly from the constant crush of visitors. They say, however, that they are taking "appropriate measures", including the construction of a steel and glass "viewing chamber" through which visitors will be able later this year to view the masterpieces while restoration continues. "We've had enough of Professor Beck's criticisms," said Flavio Zanonato, Mayor of Padua. "If he doesn't desist we are going to take him to court and sue him for defaming the image of Padua."

The chapel was built in 1303 by Enrico Scrovegni, a wealthy local merchant, to atone for his father's usury. The commission to decorate the walls went to Giotto, the painter who more than any other laid the foundations of Western art by developing human, three dimensional portrayals rather than the flat figures of the Byzantine tradition. Over two years, he covered the walls of the chapel with cycles of




Scrovegni with a model of the chapel he had built

frescoes on the life of Christ, the life of the Virgin Mary, the story of the Passion and the life of Joachim (Mary's supposed father). There is also a series of paintings on vice and virtue, and a spectacular *Last Judgment*, with rivers of fire running from Heaven to Hell. Art historians say the inner human emotions revealed by Giotto — for example, in the look between the two shepherds in *The Arrival of Joachim*, or between Jesus and Judas in *The Kiss of Judas* — are key landmarks in the development of modern art. According to Federico Zeri, Italy's foremost art expert, the attribution of some of the Giotto frescoes at Assisi is "questionable", whereas there is "no doubt whatsoever that the Padua frescoes are by him and him alone".


Beck: condemns "remedy" by local authority

Professor Beck said there was a risk that the Padua frescoes will be lost altogether because of the methods being used by the local restorers. "They are like the Keystone Cops, rushing around in several directions at once," he said.

Professor Beck, who runs a pressure group called ArtWatch, said the work in the Scrovegni chapel was crazy. "One of the great artistic legacies is dissolving before our eyes," he said. "They need to tackle the water in the crypt first, because that is the cause of the humidity. Instead they are restoring the frescoes, which were restored perfectly adequately 30 years ago. The plaster is peeling away and the walls are running with water. We simly cannot stand aside while disastrous errors are committed." Ferdinando De Simone, a Paduan architect who has made a 12-year study of the chapel, agrees that the viewing chamber is a mistake. "The idea is that humidity will be lowered because the breath and other impurities emitted by human beings will be filtered out," he said. "But this is absurd; in reality the humidity is caused not so much by visitors as by the water in the crypt."

Professor Beck argues that the chamber is not only irrelevant but poses an additional danger. "If there were an earthquake, this steel and glass cage would act like a giant sledgehammer smashing against the walls." He argues that the chapel at Padua, like the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, was made less resistant to earthquakes in the 1960s and 1970s when its wooden beams were replaced with reinforced concrete.

Signor De Simone suggests that, if restorers want to restrict the damage from "human emissions", they would do better to construct a tunnel from the 14th-century Eremitani church next door, which was rebuilt after sustaining severe bomb damage in the Second World War which almost totally destroyed its Mantegna frescoes. A tunnel seven yards wide, Signor De Simone has calculated, could run 120 yards under the piazza and gardens separating the two churches, and could be lined with archaeological exhibits, a bookshop and bar. The tunnel would act as an acclimatiser, with visitors' bodies gradually adjusting to the temperature of the chapel, instead of bringing in the heat and dust of the streets outside.

For Signor Zanonato, such professorial interference is not only beside the point but also an unwanted irritant. "We have embarked on a programme of restoration, and we don't need outside experts," the Mayor said. "As far as the water is concerned, we have constructed a tank to collect it and drain it off, which we do regularly. As far as restoration work is concerned, we are not touching up the paintings at all, we are merely trying to ensure that the plaster does not come way from the walls."

Signor De Simone said the real problem was that there are no recent reliable geological surveys of the area. "We simply do not know the depth of the foundations, we can only make deductions. All we know is the chapel is built on sand, lime and clay, which is increasingly waterlogged." Professor Beck is convinced there was no water there when Giotto painted the frescoes.

The authorities, he said, have no grounds for arguing that the fate of the frescoes is a "local matter", when what is needed is an "international debate on how to proceed. Nothing could be less local. The Giotto paintings do not belong to Padua, they do not even belong to Italy. They belong to the world."


Giotto's *Betrayal of Christ*, dating from about 1305 — one of the Scrovegni chapel frescoes threatened by water and humidity

For the best movie deal around call The Satellite Guy



Get the Sky Movies package and great channels like MTV, Discovery, Nickelodeon, Disney Channel and others for only £24.99 a month
Minimum subscription 12 months plus a one-off connection fee of £12

SKY

The Cable Guy - Monday 16th February
Flipper - premieres Sunday 22nd February
Eraser - premieres Saturday 28th February
are just three of the 600 movies to see this month

Call 0990 97 97 97 now or contact your nearest Sky retailer

Subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription Contract. This offer is not open to pubs or clubs or similar establishments or other non domestic customers. Subscribers must be 18 years or over, eligibility subject to status. Programmes and channels subject to alteration. Pay per view events or programmes are not included within this subscription. Full details of subscription and other channel packages and prices from Sky Subscribers Services Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7DD.

هكذا من الأصل

The crooked Nero who fiddled £15m as London burned

Insurance assessor is on the run after copying 1930s fraudster who took cut of inflated claims for arson attacks. Stewart Tendler reports

A CROOKED insurance expert used a notorious 1930s arson ring as the model for a £30 million fraud racket, detectives disclosed yesterday after a five-year investigation.

The Scotland Yard operation, codenamed Nero, targeted an insurance loss assessor called Peter Scott who arranged fires and break-ins at addresses across North London. He then organised inflated insurance claims for the owners and took a cut of the cash.

Yesterday, as the final defendant in the case pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey, legal restrictions on reporting Scott's operations and the investigation were lifted. Mohammed Zaud Farid, 57, a businessman from North London, was given a two-year suspended sentence and a £30,000 fine for making a £150,000 claim on a warehouse fire.

Police believe Scott, 42, who is on the run after absconding from Ford open prison while awaiting trial, launched his rackets after studying the Leopold Harris gang, active more than 60 years ago. Harris, another crooked insurance assessor, organised fires in London and Manchester.

Harris's brother-in-law would supply cheap goods that would be invoiced at ten times their value and then destroyed in the blaze. His arsonists included a former fireman who liked starting fires and a 69-year-old who had two blazes to his credit.

Harris, nicknamed "The Prince", was eventually jailed for 14 years in 1933 after being caught by a suspicious solicitor. But Scott realised that nothing had been done to prevent the fraud being repeated.

Police and arson experts say Operation Nero disclosed a world where insurance claims are paid without sufficient checks. Arson attacks are not fully investigated and insurance companies have no way of checking links between claims. Scott is only one of a number of fraudsters: the others are still operating.

When Scott's offices in North London were raided, police discovered claims worth £30 million. Half had already been settled. Investigators believe all the claims were fake and Scott stood to make hundreds of thousands of pounds in fees. He made £150,000 on one £5 million warehouse fire and drove a white Mercedes with the registration BDAST — spelling BOAST.

Scott began his operations as an insurance assessor in the 1980s after working as a butcher and in the clothing business. An Anglo-Indian by birth, he told police his father had been an insurance salesman.

He started the insurance business from his home in Mill Hill, North London. Assessors act for the victims of crime and put in claims on their behalf.

Detectives believe Scott employed at least three professional arsonists and a burglar.

He also used a network of contacts to provide material for inflated claims. His office held about 150 files on domestic cases. One jeweller was later jailed for providing false valuations totalling £250,000. Many of the contacts had been represented in their own insurance claims.

When a company put in a claim Scott would draw up fake paperwork that included receipts for stock bought from suppliers. In one case he put in papers for a firm showing it had paid for leather goods worth thousands of pounds from a company called Phoenix. The insurance company paid out but police later discovered neither the company nor its address existed. Scott would also fake claims for "consequential losses" that would cover business lost because of fire damage.

Police linked Scott to nine arsons. The largest took place in 1991 at an East London warehouse complex in Canning Town, where Scott and the owner, Reg Ellis, an entrepreneur, plotted the fire. Ellis was jailed for seven years.

The warehouse was used by 23 clothing companies to keep stock. The fire was originally attributed to an electrical malfunction.

Fourteen of the companies were later represented by Scott, who would get between 5 and 10 per cent of the cash paid by the insurers. The owner of the warehouse also got his cut.

Scott never advertised his business, which moved to offices in New Southgate, North London. He relied on word of mouth and it was rumours that led to Operation Nero. Officers under Detective Sergeant Alan Hutchinson, a former fraud squad detective, were investigating a car insurance fraud when they were tipped off about a series of arsons. Sergeant Hutchinson discovered Scott was the common link.

The Yard formed a small squad and for months officers watched Scott and even raided his rubbish bags for evidence. After his arrest they spent months checking his records and the paperwork he had used for claims.

More than 50 arrests were made and 15 clients later became prosecution witnesses. Scott was convicted and sentenced to three years for fraud involving burglaries. He is now thought to be hiding somewhere in Britain using cash he kept hidden from police. In his absence he was sentenced to a further seven years, to be served consecutively. He was also given ten concurrent sentences of five years each for fraud charges. Seven others were also jailed during the trials.

A Home Office minister and police are studying calls for action to curb the fraudsters. An internal Yard report urges the creation of a specialist squad and recommends that insurance companies should keep a national record of claims so that similar frauds can be detected.



FIRE INSURANCE CLAIMS

CONSPIRACY CHARGE

A LIQUIDATION AT MANCHESTER

Peter Scott and a 1930s report on the fraud he copied. Below, damage after arson at Reg Ellis's warehouse



ALBAN DONOHOE



Diane Holliday is driven away after being arrested at home yesterday

Police question Fayed baby claim woman

A WOMAN who claimed to be the mother of Dodi Fayed's child was arrested yesterday by detectives investigating allegations of financial deception (Stephen Farrell writes).

Diane Holliday, 36, was led from her bungalow in Little Saxham, Suffolk, by three Metropolitan Police officers and taken for questioning at Bury St Edmunds police station.

The arrest came five days after Mrs Holliday, a divorcée, alleged that Mr Fayed had fathered her 15-month-old daughter, Marni. She said they had a five-month affair before his death in the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales.

Her claim was dismissed by Mr Fayed's father, Mohamed Al Fayed, who hired American investigators to check her story. The baby was given up for adoption in America a few days after her birth in November 1996.

Mrs Holliday was given £5,000 by Mr Al Fayed while he checked her story. She was also said to have been given money by Tiny Rowland, his business rival, after she claimed to have papers concerning the takeover of Harrods by Mr Al Fayed's company House of Fraser.

Mrs Holliday claims to have DNA evidence to prove the baby's parentage yet to produce it.

As she climbed into the car with a woman police officer yesterday Mrs Holliday said: "I don't have anything to say at the moment."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We can confirm that a woman was arrested this morning and taken to a police station in Suffolk."

Was it murder?..... Weekend
Letters 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy given custody for rape attempt

A schoolboy was yesterday given nine months' youth custody for trying to rape a 12-year-old girl.

The boy, who was aged 13 at the time of the offence, was ordered to register as a sex offender for five years. Judge Christopher Hodson at Wolverhampton Crown Court told him that he had committed a "serious and grave" offence but was a good boy in other respects. The boy had been with two other teenagers, who were earlier sentenced for indecently assaulting the girl.

RAF base shuts

The RAF base at Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis, Western Isles, is to close next month after 57 years. It became a Nato forward-operating base in 1964 to help to guard Britain's northern approaches but has been made redundant by the end of the Cold War.

Taken for a ride

A woman aged 70 was taken for a half-mile ride in the back of her car by a runaway psychiatric patient. The 35-year-old man found the car parked with the keys in the ignition and drove off after evading staff at Newton Lodge secure unit in Wakefield.

Catering theft

A catering manager who swindled £130,000 from a hospital has been jailed for 3½ years. John Harris, 45, stole frozen meat from the kitchens at Kettering General Hospital, then sold it to a wholesaler. He admitted 17 counts of theft at Northampton Crown Court.

Kidnapper jailed

Phillip Durose, 31, a Gulf War veteran, was jailed for life yesterday at Mold Crown Court after admitting kidnapping a girl aged eight. Durose, 31, of Rudheath, Cheshire, ambushed her, put a noose around her neck and forced her into a car boot.

Engaging pet

Jo Taylor, 27, a nurse from Taunton, Somerset, spent four days searching when her £400 engagement ring vanished from her bedside table. Finally she asked a vet to x-ray her accident-prone cat, Hester. An operation has now removed the ring from its stomach.

Up and under

One of 200 helium balloons sent off from a sports day at Ash Grove Primary School in Bromley, Kent, has been found at Marton on North Island, New Zealand. The sender, Andrew Byars, 7, may now enter *The Guinness Book of Records*.

HEARTS JOINED,
PROPOSALS MADE AND
VOWS RENEWED.
FROM 10AM
AT HARRODS.



If two things were destined to be together this Valentine's day, it's you and Harrods. Choose from seven floors of gifts ranging from the traditional, such as fine Belgian chocolates and floral bouquets, to the more extravagant, like a Chopard Love Ring from our Fine Jewellery Room. Or you could choose to treat your Valentine to a romantic meal. Heart-shaped salmon parcels with oysters in the Sea Grill perhaps, or a special Valentine's banquet at the Georgian Restaurant. So say those three special little words your loved one has been dying to hear. Let's visit Harrods.

Harrods KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Tel: 0171-730 1234

SWIFTCALL
LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS
www.swiftcall.com



Australia	18p	N.Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S.Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre paid account.

0800 769 0033

BUSINESS 0800 769 2222

Call 1800 794 381 if you live in Ireland.
1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA.

Going Places
THE HOLIDAY MATCHMAKER
up to 33% off
1998/99 CARIBBEAN CRUISES
WITH
PRINCESS CRUISES



IT'S SO EASY TO BOOK!
OPEN
VISIT YOUR LOCAL SHOP
TELEPHONE 08701 616161
SEE US ON Teletext
ITV PAGE 263

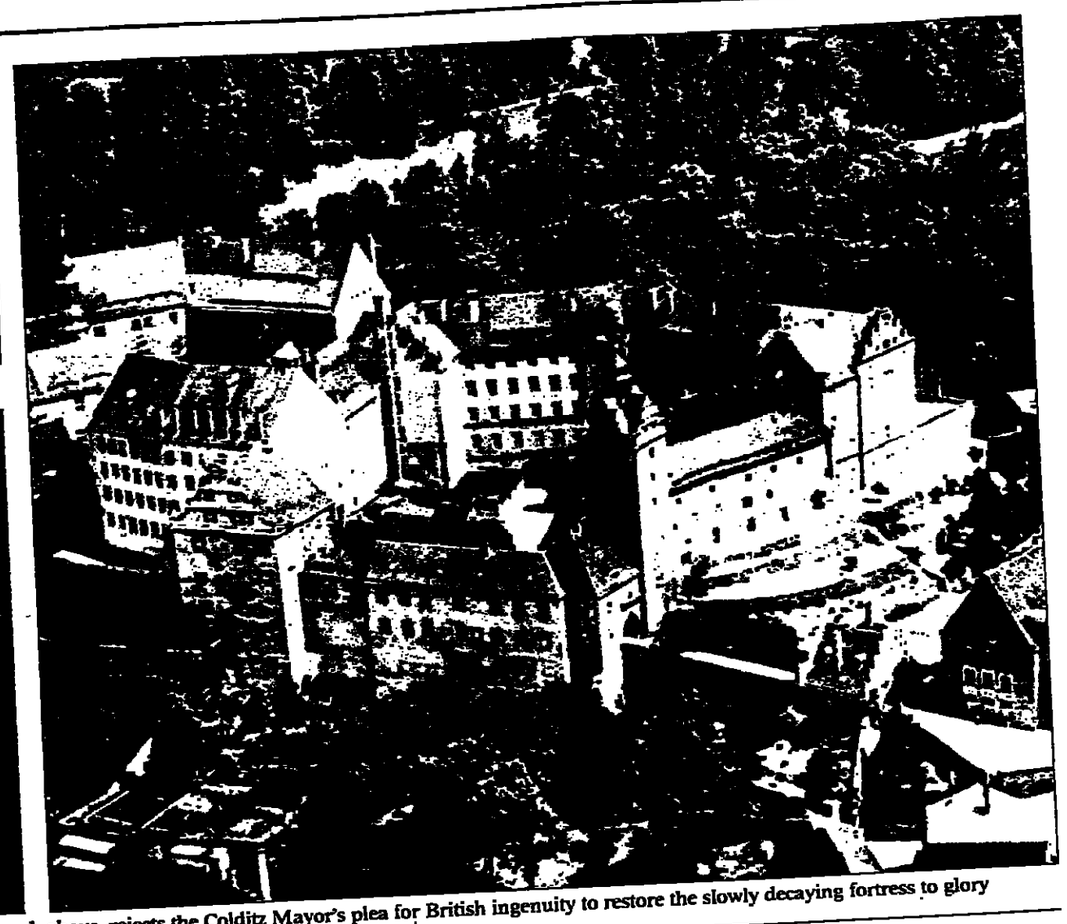
37½ discount applies per person to the Magical Calypso cruise on board the Dawn Princess, cabin grade BC on selected departures and limited from the Princess Caribbean 1998/9 brochure. Discount subject to availability of prices and not for cabin. Discount includes Going Places and Princess Cruises discount. Offer subject to Independent Going Places insurance at the time of booking. Typical cost £94.95 for up to 17 nights European and £84.95 for up to 17 nights Worldwide cruise. Other available for a limited time only. Please ask for full details. Going Places acts as agent for P&O Cruises ABTA 3053.

هكذا من الاصل



PA

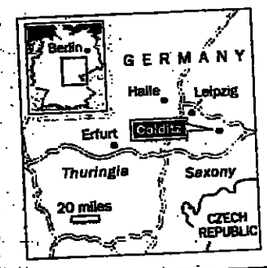
Prisoners playing volleyball in the grounds of Colditz Castle which was turned into a prison camp in 1940



Colditz looks for British way out

The crumbling castle needs £30m, Roger Boyes writes





Kenneth Lockwood, above, rejects the Colditz Mayor's plea for British ingenuity to restore the slowly decaying fortress to glory

For years British prisoners of war did their best to break out of Colditz Castle: tunnelling under the walls, waddling past the guards disguised in women's clothes, on improvised wings or on the back of a cart. Now, the Germans want the British to save their former jail.

"I appeal to imaginative British investors to breathe fresh life into the castle," said Manfred Heinz, the local mayor, as he watches the empty 700-room fortress decay.

From 1941 to 1945 the fortress housed 1,500 Allied officers who had tried to escape from other camps. There is no "For Sale" notice on the high crumbling walls but this damp dungeon desperately needs a new owner. "I'm willing to listen to any serious offer from someone with a suitcase full of money," Herr Heinz told *The Times*. He estimates it would take £30 million to rehabilitate the castle as a hotel or a conference centre.



Lockwood as a PoW

His preference, though, is for someone who can keep alive the wartime myth of Colditz, for it is this — fuelled by Pat Reid's books and the film *The Colditz Story* — rather than the town's medieval origins that attract about 10,000 visitors a year to spend time — "voluntarily this time", emphasised Herr Heinz — in Colditz. Most of them are British, though many Dutch have started to arrive because the film has recently been screened in The Netherlands.

About 20 per cent of Colditz's 6,000 inhabitants are out of work — average for eastern Germany. There are some enterprising attempts to encourage visitors to stay: a Prisoners' Pub has opened, complete with portraits of escapees — but most tourists do not linger since, even without armed guards, barbed wire and search lights, the castle retains its menace.

The Colditz legend is kept alive in a museum in the old sentry building. There, the stories of abseiling out of the kitchen windows and of the mousetrap converted into a radio transmitter are relived. There are exhibits of German medals made from cardboard.

In all, there were 176 escape attempts; 31 were successful.

Since much of this history has passed the Germans by, there has been a lack of local investor interest. There was no great demand from German television for films depicting the guards as slow-witted warders of a motley group of former public schoolboys. "Colditz was not a battle between good and evil," said Rolf Strauss, son of a Colditz guard. "Rather, more than 1,500 young, highly decorated, very experienced escapers were ranged against German soldiers given sentry duties because of their poor health or advanced age."

After the Second World War, the former East Germany used the castle as a holding centre for "class enemies" such as landowners and intellectuals. Then it became a mental hospital and old people's home. Cold and damp crept in. The handicapped and the elderly have been rehoused.

Herr Heinz is struggling to keep the place together. The roof is now in order and much of the repairs to the walls have been carried out.

Building supervisors try to inspect the 700 rooms every week to check for burst pipes and to control the spread of damp. But it is still a place from which to escape.

☐ **London:** Kenneth Lockwood, 86, and Peter Allan, 80, the two last survivors of the first batch of six British officers sent to Colditz in 1940, ruled out any offers of money towards saving the castle (Michael Evans writes). Mr Lockwood said: "As far as we're concerned, if the place falls down, so be it."

INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ON A WIDE RANGE OF KITCHEN APPLIANCES
SAVE UP TO £130 ON LAUNDRY
UP TO 72 IN STORE
WASHING MACHINES
Swift Electric BEN30A 800/1000 spin/1 lb wash load was £269.99 previously £349.99 sale £269.99 .. SAVE £100 £249.99*
Hotpoint WM52P 600-1000 spin 11lb wash load Half load option normally £349.99.. SAVE £50 £299.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
CAW1010 400-1000 spin/11lb wash load was £339.99 previously £449.99 SAVE £120 £329.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI FL1085 1000 spin 10lb wash load 29 programmes normally £499.99.. SAVE £120 £379.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
BOSCH WFB2005 600-1000 variable spin 10lb wash load/11 programmes was £389.99 previously £499.99 SAVE £120 £379.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
Hotpoint WM83 1100 spin/12lb wash load Aqueous Wash System Plus was £399.99 previously £499.99 SAVE £110 £389.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI FJ1286 450-1200 variable spin 30 programmes was £569.99 .. SAVE £90 £479.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
BOSCH WFF2000 1000 spin/11lb wash load 19 programmes was £909.99.. SAVE £110 £499.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
HOOVER A8754 1100 spin/10lb wash load 5lb dry load was £549.99 sale £369.99 .. SAVE £80 £369.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
Hotpoint WD61P 900/1100 spin speed/10lb wash load 5lb dry load was £559.99 .. SAVE £110 £449.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI WDJ1284 Jetsystem 450-1200 variable spin 10lb wash load/5lb dry load was £599.99 previously £869.99 SAVE £90 £579.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
TUMBLE DRYERS
BOSCH WTA2000 11lb dry load Reverse tumble action was £299.99 .. SAVE £100 £199.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI TC470 11lb dry load Requires no venting was £409.99 .. SAVE £130 £279.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE UP TO £130 ON DISHWASHERS
UP TO 20 IN STORE
ZANUSSI DW907 12 place settings 4 programmes was £429.99 .. SAVE £130 £299.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
BOSCH SGS4012 12 place settings/3 programmes normally £389.99 Trade-in £329.99 SAVE £70 £319.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI DS17 6 place settings 4 programmes normally £429.99 SAVE £100 £329.99
BOSCH SGS5302 12 place settings 5 programmes was £469.99 SAVE £70 £399.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE UP TO £230 ON COOKING
UP TO 120 IN STORE
BUILT-IN COOKING
EOS160 White Electric Oven light/Glass door/2 shelves was £139.99 previously £288.99 . SAVE £10 £129.99
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BROWN/CREAM DOORS AVAILABLE
FREE STANDING COOKERS
ES601 White Electric 500mm width Combined oven and grill was £269.99 .... SAVE £20 £149.99
LESLIE Firesse 55 White Gas, 540mm width Separate grill 4 equally sized burners normally £339.99 SAVE £90 £249.99
Creda J9107 Rhapsody Fan Green Electric 500mm width Fan oven Solid hot plates was £399.99 SAVE £100 £299.99
STOVES Panache 500SI White Gas 500mm width Separate grill Brass effect was £549.99 SAVE £100 £449.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
Creda Carousel Halogen 4845 White Electric 500mm width Double oven/Ceramic Rotisserian oven, was £799.99 previously £999.99 SAVE £230 £769.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BROWN
LEISURE Rangemaster 110 Green Gas, 1100mm width/Double oven Available in Racing Green, Claret or Royal Blue in a choice of gas, LPG, dual fuel or electric was £1699 .... SAVE £200 £1499
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
£200 OFF MATCHING COOKER HOOD WHEN BOUGHT TOGETHER! FREE SPECIALIST COOKBOOKS
SAVE UP TO £130 ON REFRIGERATION
UP TO 100 IN STORE
ALL COMET REFRIGERATION APPLIANCES ARE CFC FREE
FRIDGES
DAEWOO FR142 Fridge with Ice Box 4.9 cu.ft gross capacity was £169.99 sale £109.99.. SAVE £60 £99.99
Lec L-RD50L Larder Fridge 5.0 cu.ft gross capacity was £189.99 .. SAVE £20 £169.99
Hotpoint RB69P Fridge with Ice Box 5.6 cu.ft gross capacity Low energy model was £259.99 .. SAVE £60 £199.99
Scandinova LF111D Larder Fridge, 11.4 cu.ft gross capacity Temperature check, was £349.99 previously £419.99 sale £329.99 .. SAVE £100 £319.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
FREEZERS
Proline CF38C Chest Freezer 3.8 cu.ft gross capacity was £159.99 sale £109.99 .. SAVE £60 £99.99
Bexco NZ701 Upright Freezer 4.1 cu.ft gross capacity was £189.99 .... SAVE £40 £149.99
Proline FS997 Upright Freezer 8.8 cu.ft gross capacity Fast freeze facility was £329.99 .. SAVE £80 £249.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
FRIDGE FREEZERS
Proline CC8234 4.5/3.1 cu.ft gross capacity was £229.99 previously £329.99 SAVE £110 £219.99
ECD606 5.1/3.4 cu.ft gross capacity was £259.99 previously £349.99 SAVE £100 £249.99
Blomberg CFN201 Frost-Free 4.2/2.6 cu.ft gross capacity Fast freeze was £399.99 .. SAVE £100 £299.99
Blomberg CFN311 6.1/4.8 cu.ft gross capacity was £719.99 previously £949.99 .. SAVE £50 £399.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
ZANUSSI ZFK564R 5.4/4.3 cu.ft gross capacity Fast freeze facility was £529.99 SAVE £30 £399.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
Hotpoint 4596P Frost-Free 7.2/5.8 cu.ft gross capacity Extra deep door storage was £729.99 SAVE £30 £599.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE £30 ON THIS DEHUMIDIFIER
MORE IN STORE
Ebac 660, 3.4 litre water container Adjustable humidistat was £299.99 previously £299.99 SAVE £30 £269.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE UP TO 50% ON VACUUM CLEANERS
UP TO 55 IN STORE
Bloomberg BC01 'Breeze' Cylinder 1200 watts power/Complete with tools was £99.99 In-store £49.99 UNDER HALF PRICE £44.99
Electrolux 1856 'One' Cylinder 1200 watts power Complete with tools was £99.99.. SAVE £30 £69.99
HOOVER U1060 Upright 600 watts power On-board tools..... £79.99
HOOVER U0135 Upright 1300 watts power was £149.99 sale £134.99 .. SAVE £20 £129.99
THE COMET PRICE CANNOT BE BEATEN
The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.
EASY WAYS TO PAY
With a Comet Timecard you can spread the cost of any purchase (subject to acceptance). With no deposit and an interest-free period, it really is the most convenient way to pay.
29.9% APR
*Examples – Easy Note Play 12 months Interest-Free Option for all to 12 months after the purchase date. Balance (DBC) is payable as last within the 12 calendar month period. 0% APR. Total amount payable = Cash price or 24 monthly payments of £47.72 commencing 12 months after purchase date. 29.9% APR. Total amount payable = £1252.27.
THE COMET PRICE
YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER
• Lowest sale prices guaranteed
• Over 100 of our best selling top brand products
• In the national newspapers every Saturday
• Updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425
SALE NOW ON
OVER 900 PRODUCT LINES REDUCED
VAX S130 3 in 1, Vacuums & washes 1300 watts power was £149.99 previously £199.99 SAVE £60 £139.99
Electrolux 1730 'Powerstream' Upright 1500 watts power/Cyclone cassette was £189.99 previously £199.99 .. SAVE £20 £179.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
dyson DC03 Upright Dual Cyclone technology/2 HEPA filters Adaptive brush control Unique bagless system NEW £279.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE UP TO 50% ON MICROWAVES
UP TO 40 IN STORE
Proline SM11 750 watts IEC/0.6 cu.ft capacity/5 power levels .. £69.99
Proline ST22 Touch Control 750 watts IEC/0.6 cu.ft capacity was £179.99 UNDER In-store £89.99 .. HALF PRICE £79.99
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BLUE
SHARP R210A Blue 800 watts IEC/0.5 cu.ft capacity was £119.99 sale £99.99 SAVE £30 £89.99
DL12 Periette Touch Control 900 watts IEC 0.8 cu.ft capacity was £119.99 previously £129.99 £139.99 SAVE £30 £109.99
SANYO EG450 Touch Control with Grill 1000 watts IEC/0.8 cu.ft capacity was £149.99 previously £164.99, £199.99 .. SAVE £55 £144.99
Panasonic NNG677W Touch Control Combination, 800 watts IEC 1.1 cu.ft capacity was £319.99 .. SAVE £20 £299.99
SAVE UP TO 50% ON SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
UP TO 250 IN STORE
VALENTINES GIFTS
AN EXTRA 10% OFF ANY SHAVER OR HAIR CARE PRODUCT WITH THIS VOUCHER
PROLINE Deep Fat Fryer 1 litre capacity Double Basin, was £69.99 previously £79.99 SAVE £15 £64.99
Moulinex AT701 Dean Duo Food Processor, 2 litre processing bowl/1.5 litre liquidiser bowl, works at once was £84.99 SAVE £6 £78.99
SAVE UP TO £20 ON PORTABLE HI-FI
UP TO 80 IN STORE
Panasonic SL-S320 Personal CD 10 seconds anti-shock system Includes rechargeable batteries was £109.99 previously £119.99 SAVE £20 £99.99
JVC PC-X522 CD Stereo Radio Cassette 2 band digital tuner Bass boost was £139.99 SAVE £10 £119.99
SAVE UP TO £100 ON HI-FI SYSTEMS
UP TO 90 IN STORE
CD MICRO HI-FI
Goodmans MS585 CD Micro Digital timer Remote control In-store £119.99 .. SAVE £20 £99.99
SHARP XL-50TE CD Micro Remote control Full logic cassette deck In-store £129.99 SAVE £10 £119.99
CD MINI HI-FI
SHARP CD-C1GH 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini 10 watts RMS power output was £179.99 sale £149.99 SAVE £30 £149.99
VENTURER CD2550 3 Disc Multiplay Dolby Pro-Logic CD Mini, 60 watts total RMS power output, was £299.99 previously £299.99 sale £199.99 SAVE £30 £169.99
SONY MHC-CD3C Disc Multiplay CD Mini, 25 watts RMS power output, was £249.99 previously £249.99 SAVE £70 £179.99
JVC CD211 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini, was £229.99 previously £249.99 .. SAVE £50 £199.99
JVC CD211 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini 70 watts RMS power output was £279.99 previously £299.99 sale £239.99 SAVE £60 £239.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SONY MHC-RV77 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini, 55 watts RMS power output was £279.99 previously £299.99 SAVE £50 £249.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
aiwa NSX-AV75 Dolby Pro-Logic CD Mini, 125 watts Max RMS power output was £349.99 previously £399.99 SAVE £100 £299.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
CD HI-FI WITH TURNTABLE
SONY G1000 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mid 30 watts RMS power output was £259.99 previously £279.99, £299.99 sale £249.99 SAVE £70 £229.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
aiwa CR60 5 Disc Multiplay CD Mid 50 watts RMS power output was £349.99 sale £329.99 .. SAVE £50 £299.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SONY XB6 Dolby Pro-Logic 5 Disc Multiplay CD Mid 180 watts total RMS power output was £529.99 SAVE £100 £599.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION**
SAVE UP TO £150 ON TELEVISIONS
UP TO 80 IN STORE
ALL COMET TVs ARE DIGITAL COMPATIBLE SUBJECT TO PURCHASE OF A DECODER, AVAILABLE WHEN DIGITAL TV LAUNCHES
Goodmans 14S575 14" Teletext TV 34cm visible screen was £139.99 SAVE £10 £129.99
Panasonic TC1458R 14" Remote Control TV, 34cm visible screen was £169.99 previously £179.99 In-store £159.99 SAVE £30 £149.99
TOSHIBA 2173DB 21" NICAM Stereo TV, 51cm visible screen was £319.99 previously £379.99 £399.99 SAVE £130 £269.99
JVC AV-21TS5EK 21" NICAM Stereo TV, 51cm visible screen was £299.99 previously £359.99 SAVE £50 £329.99
LARGE SCREEN TVs
Goodmans 28S05 28" NICAM Stereo TV 66cm visible screen was £569.99 previously £579.99 £599.99 sale £349.99 SAVE £70 £329.99
Panasonic TX28M7G 28" NICAM Stereo TV 53cm visible screen was £449.99 previously £469.99 SAVE £40 £429.99
TOSHIBA 2877DB 28" Home Cinema TV 66cm visible screen was £743.99 previously £799.99, £849.99 sale £729.99 SAVE £150 £699.99
SONY KV29F3 29" Home Cinema TV 66cm visible screen was £619.99 previously £679.99 sale £799.99 SAVE £80 £769.99
BUY NOW PAY UP TO FEB 1999*
ON A WIDE RANGE OF HOME ENTERTAINMENT
SAVE UP TO £90 ON TV/VIDEO PACKAGES
UP TO 30 IN STORE
SAMSUNG 21" Flatcast TV 51cm visible screen, CS5373I .. £299.99
Videoplus+™ Video, SV203 .. £199.99
SAVE £90 PACKAGE £349
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
MITSUBISHI 28" NICAM Stereo TV 66cm visible screen, C28C7B .. £319.99
NICAM Stereo Video, HS750 .. £279.99
SAVE £50 PACKAGE £749
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
JVC 29" 3D-Phonic Home Cinema TV 68cm visible screen, AV29SX3EK .. £599.99
NICAM Stereo Video, HRJ645 .. £299.99
SAVE £20 PACKAGE £849
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
SAVE UP TO £120 ON VIDEOS
UP TO 45 IN STORE
Goodmans VP2400, Videoplus+™ Long play/SCART socket was £159.99 In store £149.99 .. SAVE £30 £129.99
SHARP VQM271 Videoplus+™ Jog shuttle/Long play was £179.99 sale £159.99 SAVE £40 £139.99
Goodmans VN5000, NICAM Stereo 4 heads/Programme Delivery Control/2 SCART sockets In-store £199.99 SAVE £20 £179.99
INCLUDES SCART LEAD
MITSUBISHI HS740B Videoplus+™/4 heads/Long play 2 SCART sockets was £229.99 In-store £219.99 SAVE £30 £199.99
SONY SLVE-220 Videoplus+™ Long play/SCART socket was £229.99 sale £219.99 SAVE £30 £199.99
aiwa HVFX380 NICAM Stereo/4 heads/Jog shuttle Programme Delivery Control was £299.99 sale £279.99 SAVE £50 £249.99
Panasonic NVHD620, NICAM Stereo/4 heads/Pro-gramme Delivery Control was £349.99 sale £329.99 .. SAVE £50 £299.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
TOSHIBA V857, NICAM Stereo 4 heads/Satellite control Programme Delivery Control .. SAVE £120 £339.99
BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY 1999*
SAVE UP TO 50% ON ACCESSORIES
UP TO 450 IN STORE
TDK RE90 5 Pack Ferric Audio Tapes 1½ hours of recording time was £2.99 previously £3.99 HALF PRICE £1.99
JVC E180 Six 4 Pack High Grade Video Tapes, 12 hours of recording time* Separate selling price £13.00 SAVE £5 £7.99
DEJA Allegro CD Holder Holds 25 CDs was £19.99 SAVE £5 £14.99
SAVE UP TO £50 ON SATELLITE SYSTEMS
MORE IN STORE
BUY NOW PAY FEB '99 ON ALL SATELLITE SYSTEMS*
Pinnacle Pinnacle 125 channels/Child lock Stereo sound (includes 60cm dish) normally £149.99 SAVE £50 £99.99*
INSTALLATION EXTRA
BUY NOW PAY FEB '99*
MSS100 250 channels/3 SCART sockets Price including 60cm dish £189.99 £139.99
EXCLUDING DISH
SAVE UP TO £120 ON CAMCORDERS
UP TO 25 IN STORE
SAMSUNG VP-H70 8mm 16x zoom lens Digital special effects was £449.99 In-store £349.99 SAVE £120 £329.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
JVC GR-AX270EK VHS-C 15x zoom lens Wide angle lens Macro facility In-store £399.99 SAVE £20 £379.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
SHARP VL-E68H 8mm Viewcam 12x zoom lens, Fingerprint resistant LCD screen was £499.99 In-store £469.99.. SAVE £50 £449.99
BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY 1999*
SONY TR620 Hi-8 30x digital zoom Hi-Fi Stereo was £629.99 SAVE £100 £599.99
previously £699.99 BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY 1999*
SAVE UP TO £50 ON GAMES MACHINES & SOFTWARE
UP TO 80 GAMES IN STORE
PlayStation 2 Game Pack, Includes Porsche Challenge & Crash Bandicoot PACKAGE Separate selling price £214.97 SAVE £45 £169.97
NINTENDO64 Games Machine, The fastest, most powerful games console on earth was £149.99 SAVE £50 £99.99
SOFTWARE
GOLDENEYE 007 For Nintendo 64 Awesome James Bond shoot-'em-up Rumble Pak compatible £49.99
SAVE UP TO £400 ON MULTIMEDIA PCs & PRINTERS
WIDE RANGE IN STORE
FREE SOFTWARE BUNDLE WITH ALL MULTIMEDIA PCs*
SIEMENS Xpert P166 MMX NIXDORF Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology 32Mb SD RAM/1.6Gb hard disk drive, 3D graphics card with 3Mb RAM was £999.99 previously £1399.99 SAVE £200 £799.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
FUJITSU Myrecu Plus N5 AMD K6 200MHz processor with MMX™ technology/512Kb cache memory/2.0Gb hard disk drive/33.6 DSVD fax/modem Includes sub-woofer was £1249.99 SALE previously £1399.99 £1099.99 SAVE £400 £999.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER*
SIEMENS Xpert PII 233MT NIXDORF Intel 233MHz Pentium II processor/32Mb SD RAM 3.2Gb hard disk drive 3D graphics card with 4Mb RAM 33.6 fax/modem was £1599.99 SAVE £200 £1399.99
BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY 1999*
PC/PRINTER PACKAGE
SIEMENS Xpert PII 266MT NIXDORF Intel 266MHz Pentium II processor with MMX™ technology 32Mb SD RAM/3.2Gb hard disk drive 3D graphics card with 4Mb RAM 33.6 fax/modem PACKAGE SAVE £260 £1799
BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY 1999*
ALSO INCLUDES CANON 600 COLOUR PRINTER, 56MM PHP SCANNER, PC WORKSTATION, COMBINED TOOL, WEB CAMERA
COLOUR PRINTERS
LEXMARK 1000 Colour Inkjet Up to 3 pages per minute 600 x 600 dpi print quality 30 page sheet feeder was £119.99 previously £129.99 SAVE £30 £99.99
EPSON Stylus Color 400 Inkjet Up to 4 pages per minute 720 x 720 dpi print quality Advanced dust ink cartridge system was £179.99 SAVE £20 £159.99
INCLUDES EPSON FREE FACTORY PACK
SAVE UP TO £30 ON PHONES, FAXES & ANSWERING MACHINES
UP TO 80 IN STORE
VENTURER 656 Telephone with Built-In Digital Answering Machine 10 memories/Remote access Call screening was £39.99 SAVE £5 £34.99
Binatone Discovery Cordless Telephone Paging facility Digital noise reduction was £59.99 SAVE £20 £39.99
BT Freestyle 80 Cordless Telephone Paging facility/4 channels 10 memories/Wall mountable In-store £59.99 SAVE £1 £58.99
BT Freestyle 1500 Cordless Telephone with Digital Answering Machine Intercom facility/8 channels was £129.99 previously £159.99 SAVE £30 £119.99
ADD UP TO 3 ADDITIONAL BT CORDLESS HANDSETS FOR ONLY £59.99 EACH*
SAMSUNG SF1101 Fax with Digital Answering Machine Automatic fax phone switch 50 memories was £199.99 previously £219.99 SAVE £30 £189.99
COMET
COMET IS THE BIGGEST OUT-OF-TOWN ELECTRICAL RETAILER, SO THERE'S BOUND TO BE A STORE NEAR YOU
For local store details, see Teletext Ch4 p425 or phone free on 0500 425 425.
Visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk
MONEY BACK WARRANTY
Our 5-Year Warranty is really special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if after 5 years you don't make a claim you can get your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.
AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS
Experts from leading independent magazines test and review our range. Products displayed with ✱ denote award winning products and ☐ denote highly recommended products.

OFFER CLOSES 17TH FEB
EVEREST JANUARY SALE
EXTENDED
30%* OFF
Call Free 0800 010123
Please Quote Ref: FEB891
* Off list price. Minimum order value £725. Offer open only at time of quotation. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Different discounts apply to conservatories.
Everest, Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4YA.
Everest FIT THE BEST

هكذا من الاصل

Montserrat sceptics attack Cook's visit

The Foreign Secretary's trip is seen as little more than a photo opportunity, Tom Rhodes writes

THE high-profile visit to Montserrat by Robin Cook today is already clouded by claims of a hidden Whitehall agenda to depopulate its tiny dependency and accusations that the Foreign Secretary is engaged in little more than a six-hour publicity stunt.

The tour by a Cabinet minister, the first since Chances Peak erupted in 1995, comes after the volcano-ravaged Caribbean island's Chief Minister accused Whitehall of delaying tactics to encourage evacuations.

Last night, leading members of the private sector said Mr Cook's brief visit was simply a photo-opportunity with *HMS Newcastle*, the West Indies guardship, as a backdrop. "It merely adds insult to injury," said one businessman. "He just wants to say that he has set foot on Montserrat. What can he learn in six hours? It is completely meaningless."

After 19 deaths in volcanic flows last year followed by diplomatic gaffes by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, Mr Cook's trip has been billed as a sign of firm British commitment to Montserrat, and privately viewed as a tacit apology for past mistakes. A select committee was highly critical of successive governments' handling of the plight of Montserrat.

More than two years after the volcano erupted after four centuries of slumber, the population of Montserrat has fallen from 11,000 to little more than 3,000. Plymouth, the capital, is buried beneath pyroclastic flows.

The infrastructure, the airport, the port and most of the businesses have vanished. Employment is scarce and, despite building some new houses in the northern safe zone, many islanders remain homeless and depressed. The volcano daily coats all areas in dense ash. Scientists at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory are still unable to offer any certain prognosis, but it seems like a big eruption is imminent.

Mr Cook will take a 20-minute helicopter ride over Chances Peak. "So far all the activity has been to the south," said Jill Norton, the deputy chief scientist. "But we can't say with any certainty that it will not flow down the Belham Valley to the north." Ever greater eruptions are taking place every six to eight weeks.

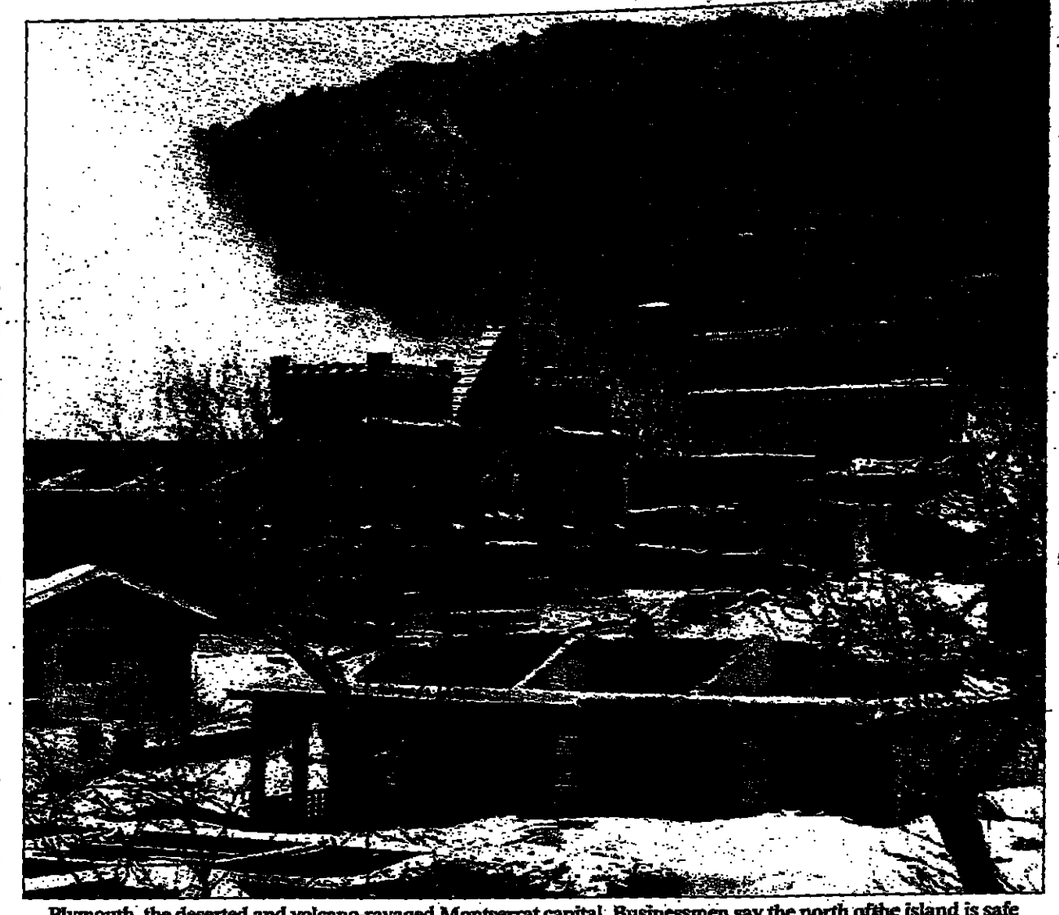
Businessmen, who argue that the north is completely safe, complain that government decisions are held up and taken without any consultation with local people.

David Hodd, 60, an architect who has lived on the island longer than any other expatriate Briton, was asked to build a prison in the north last year. Then he was told it would be scaled down to a reform centre and, last week, he was informed that his plans for the centre had been "lost".

However, Anthony Abbott, the Governor, said Mr Cook would leave with an "extremely good impression of island life", after tours of shelters, a school and hospital.

The Government has promised aid of £51 million over two years and last week, the Department for International Development announced a £450,000 first tranche to assist small businesses on the island. But for many, the incentives have arrived too late. "I have no job and I cannot afford to live on the subsidies we are given," said Ivan Green, 52, who moved recently with his wife and seven children to a new 600sq ft prefabricated home at Davy Hill. "If Mr Cook comes to see me, I will tell him what I need. But right now, I can't see any hope for the future."

JON GAFFNIAITE / ROYAL NAVY



Plymouth, the deserted and volcano-ravaged Montserrat capital. Businessmen say the north of the island is safe

Caribbean leaders condemn British demand for reform

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SIX of Britain's 13 overseas territories raised strong objections yesterday to Robin Cook's proposed changes in their human rights and financial laws that would abolish corporal and capital punishment, legalise homosexuality and make money-laundering impossible.

Chief ministers and officials from Britain's five Caribbean territories and Bermuda met the Foreign Secretary at the inaugural meeting in Nassau of the 20-nation Caribbean forum and voiced "deep concern" at the package he outlined to them in London last month. In particular they were disturbed by suggestions that Britain was offering to restore full British citizenship if they enacted the measures proposed.

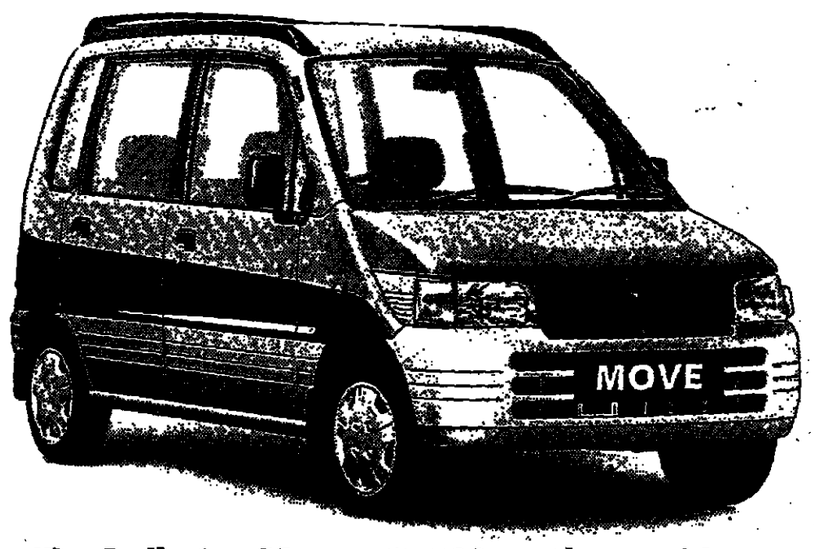
Baroness Symonds, the new Minister for Overseas Territories, insisted there was no link between the financial and human rights packages, which Britain wants to see in place within a year, and citizenship. Mr Cook would like to restore British citizenship to all 160,000 people in 11 former colonies who do not have it, but has run into Whitehall opposition. He will submit a White Paper to Parliament shortly.

Pamela Gordon, Chief Minister of Bermuda, said she was concerned by the proposals and said the requirements were unreasonable. Bermuda objects to the demand that it change its moneylaundering laws to require the territories to investigate whether foreign investors had complied with tax laws in their countries. Offshore banking was Bermuda's "bread and butter", said Ms Gordon, and gave a warning that she would fight any attempt to shift the industry back onshore.

Several Caribbean countries also strongly object to the decriminalisation of homosexuality, which Britain says is necessary to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights. They also want to retain on the statute book the little-used penalties of hanging and birching. Ms Gordon said they told Mr Cook that Britain should not touch human rights in the Caribbean, which led the world in human rights.

Whitehall officials made clear that there can be no negotiation over the rights and financial packages, as Britain has international responsibility for the territories. "But we want to resolve this constructively and amicably," a spokesman said.

Quirky quirky cheap cheap.



The Daihatsu Move+ £8,200 on the road less

£500 Cash back*

The Daihatsu Move. Unique tall body design, driver's airbag, 5 doors, side impact bars and 4 seats which fully recline to make a double bed. All this plus 53.3 miles per gallon, a 3 year unlimited mileage warranty as standard and £500 cash back.

To take advantage of this great deal and fix a test drive, call 0800 618 618 now. £500 says you won't regret it.

FROM £139 PER MONTH (typical example - Daihatsu Move+ £8,200 On The Road)			
On The Road Price	Less £500 Cash back	Deposit**	First monthly payment***
£8,200	£7,700	£1,500	£199
Followed by 35 monthly payments	Followed by final payment	Total amount payable	APR
£139	£3,270	£9,834	15.4%

*Example includes a customer cash back of £500 which is signed over to the dealer. **Your deposit is payable on completion of the finance agreement. ***A £60 acceptance fee is included in the first payment. The figures are based on an agreed contract mileage of 6,000 miles pa.

THE MOVE DAIHATSU

CLEVER CARS FROM JAPAN

Price correct at time of going to press and includes number plates, delivery and 12 months' road fund licence. Customer cash back offer available until 28/2/98. Fuel Economy: Urban cycle 39.79mpg/Extra urban cycle 53.3mpg/Combined cycle 46.08mpg. Applicants for credit must be at least 18 and a UK resident (exc. Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Credit facilities are provided, subject to status, by Inchcape Financial Services Ltd, NWS House, City Road, Chester, CH99 3AN. Written quotations on request, a guarantor may be required. The APR will vary depending on the cost of the vehicle, deposit, length of agreement and agreed contract mileage. If you exceed the agreed contract mileage there will be an excess charge of 8p per mile. You will also be liable to pay for any accidental damage to the vehicle or excess wear & tear, with regard to its age and mileage.

EVEN MORE FREE CALLS FROM vodafone



FREE LATEST NOKIA 3110 WORTH £29.99
FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL HOME ANSWERPHONE
FREE UP TO £7 WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH
FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £45
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
PER SECOND BILLING
REDUCED CALL CHARGES

Off peak calls	Peak rate calls
8.51p (10p inc VAT) PER MIN	29.79p (35p inc VAT) PER MIN

7 DAY PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE

vodafone
NOKIA 3110
● Latest Nokia GSM Phone
● 2.75 hr talk time/95 hr battery
● Compact and lightweight

Ref: DV1402

OPEN Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm • Fri 8am-9pm • Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 9am-5pm

0800 [illegible]

DIAL-a-PHONE

*Limited time subject to status, availability and a 12 month airtime contract through Dial-a-Phone (plus 30 day notice period) signed upon receipt of each phone. Itemised billing and payment by direct debit are mandatory. Free delivery within mainland UK. Saturday deliveries subject to surcharge. Peak times are 8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Other terms and conditions available on request. Dial-a-Phone Ltd Registered No. 0000000 Unit 15, Kingsbury Trading Estate, Birmingham Way, London, NW9 8AU.

هكذا من الاصل



Warhol: he would have been shocked by idea

Warhol Café follows trend

THE trend for "theme restaurants" has gone to such extremes that even a connoisseur of the excesses of pop culture such as Andy Warhol would be shocked. The artist's former Factory on East 33rd Street has been purchased by a pair of entrepreneurs who plan to add a Warhol Café to the growing list of establishments like the Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood, the Fashion Café and the Harley-Davidson Café. The Andy Warhol Foundation, which controls his trademark, says it has not received word of the plan.

A British vessel is giving New Yorkers a chance to escape from the puritanism of America for a quick flutter. The 13ft *Edinburgh Castle* has made its maiden voyage on what will be a regular service carrying would-be high-rollers from New York, where gambling is illegal, across the three-mile-limit into international waters, where just about anything goes. For $99 (£60), gamblers get a coin overnight, dinner with a mariachi band and the chance to squander their fortunes on the floating emporium's roulette and baccarat tables. The 31-year-old cruise liner used to ply the Mediterranean as the *Eugenio Costa* until it was purchased and refitted by the Amersham-based company Lowline, which leased it to American operators.

Eve's feminist world is no Eden for women

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



AMERICA'S leading ladies are clubbing together for an oh-so-sisterly celebration of Valentine's Day.

Glenn Close, Susan Sarandon, Winona Ryder and Whoopi Goldberg are among a dozen Hollywood actresses putting their reputations on the line to perform tonight at a benefit in New York for battered women, dubbed "V-Day". The "V" does not stand for Valentine. The stars will read a taboo-busting piece by the feminist playwright Eve Ensler, entitled *The Vagina Monologues*, soliloquies about female genitalia. Tickets cost $1,000 (£625).

The show has been declared by the politically correct *Village Voice* "the most outrageous and important feminist event since the bra burnings at the Miss America pageant in 1968". Ensler wrote the play to exorcise her demons after allegedly being sexually abused by her corporate father during a prosperous childhood in the New York suburbs. For research, she interviewed some 200 women ranging from pensioners to "sex workers" (asking such questions as: "If it could talk, what would it say?" and "If it got dressed, what would it wear?")

She says the monologues are aimed to help women to recapture control over their own bodies. "It's therapeutic," she told me. "It's safe to say that when you have been violated, some part of you dissociates itself and leaves you, and it takes an awful long time to come back.

"I feel like I am all here for the first time in a long time. This is the dream of a lifetime for a playwright to have this calibre of performers do your work. My dream for this event is to find a way as women to get over our differences and to pull together to change things." Sarandon, one of the runaway women in *Thelma and Louise*, will deliver an eye-witness account of a birth. Ryder, star of the latest *Alien* film, will retell the story of a rape by Serb militiamen in Bosnia. Goldberg got a piece written especially for her, called *My Angry Vagina*. The event has become the hottest ticket in town. Other stars include Close, Marisa Tomei, Lily Tomlin, Rosie Perez, Hazel Goodman and Shirley Knight, wife of the British playwright John Hopkins. The proceeds go to charities that fight sexual violence, estimated to occur in America once every 15 seconds.

Several big-name feminists did not have the nerve to appear. Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate in 1984, reportedly declined for fear it would scupper her run for a seat in the Senate. However, the BBC is now considering filming the play for television.

A bi-coastal couple of my acquaintance are hoping to have a baby. At a certain time each month, the husband flies round-trip New York-Los Angeles-New York. They promise to let the baby keep the frequent-flyer miles.

Abdication is the big issue again

NEW YORKERS have a chance to tread in the footsteps of royalty this week when Sotheby's sells some of the 44,000 belongings of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Owned by Mohammed al-Fayed, the items range from a rag doll reputedly made by Queen Mary to a formula for Wallace Simpson's L'Oréal hair dye. The big question is: will the *famous "abdication desk" end up in a British museum or in some mogul's study on Park Avenue?*

SUSAN JOHANN / VILLARD



Ensler, whose controversial soliloquies are being performed tonight

Upper West Side in fear as Wild Man wanders

The infamous "Wild Man of 96th Street" is back on the loose after years of incarceration for terrorising the Upper West Side neighbourhood.

Larry Hogue, a homeless Vietnam veteran who was struck on the head by a propeller blade during the war, was committed to a mental institution in 1993 after a string of complaints from local residents about his erratic behaviour. Fuelled by crack, he has pushed a teenage schoolgirl in front of an oncoming bus; hurled flaming rubbish bins through the stained glass windows of a church; threatened to roast and eat a tiny dog; and thrown a concrete slab through a car windscreen.

Mr Hogue went missing this week from a halfway house where he has been receiving anti-psychotic treatment, and it is feared that he will return to his old haunts.

"Under treatment, he is an intelligent, sensitive, pleasant man," said one of his victims. "But it's a Jekyll-and-Hyde situation."



Hogue: history of drug abuse, violence and arson

The opera world is holding its collective breath over the health of Luciano Pavarotti, now living in New York with his young companion, Nicoletta Mantovani. The charismatic tenor has cancelled three engagements to sing Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore *at the Metropolitan Opera this month after suffering dizzy spells during a performance.*

Rumours are also circulating that he will not be able to appear in Aida *for the reopening of the Palermo Opera in Sicily on April 5. His agent says that doctors have yet to diagnose the problem, and disputes the more dire explanations of his illness now making the rounds in Italy.*

"He was having tests, and those tests are all coming up that he is fine," said Hans Boon, of the Herbert Breslin agency. "The doctors have said that he has to rest." Pavarotti is due to return to the Met next month, and has a concert before then in Chicago on February 27. However, the first chance that opera lovers will have to assess his condition for themselves will probably be a scheduled appearance at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York on February 23 where he is to receive a Music Cares award. Fans are wondering whether he will sing (like last year's winner, Phil Collins), or not.



Pavarotti: dizzy spells

Peter Gatien, the one-eyed club king who shocked America by converting an abandoned Manhattan church into a glitzy nightspot, has been acquitted on charges that he turned his mega-discos into "drug supermarkets".

In the end, jurors just could not believe the succession of self-confessed drug-pushers, thugs and other low-life types who lined up to testify against him.

Mr Gatien still faces tax evasion charges for allegedly concealing earnings from his trend-setting New York mega-clubs — Limelight, Palladium, Club USA and Tunnel.

But he expressed delight at the verdict and promised to reopen Limelight in the same old church on Sixth Avenue. "I'm just grateful to God," he declared. "I want to go to church!"

WORLD SUMMARY

Cuba reject plea for prisoners

Seventy of the hundreds of Cuban prisoners whom the Pope wants freed will not be released because they are too dangerous, the Communist Government said yesterday.

Havana said it was releasing dozens of prisoners in response to Vatican appeals. But 70 "counter-revolutionaries" would not be freed for "reasons of national security, dangerousness or the gravity of their crimes", the island's Prensa Latina news service said. Those released include some dissidents, whose plight was highlighted by the papal visit to Cuba last month. *(AP)*

Indonesian riots target Chinese

Pamanukan, Indonesia: At least two cities in central Indonesia were rocked by riots as hundreds of people protested against soaring prices and shortages of essential goods. The streets of Pamanukan were filled with debris but almost deserted late yesterday, hours after the security forces had put an end to a day-long rampage that had targeted the Christian ethnic Chinese minority. *(AFP)*

Renewed call to murder Rushdie

Nicosia: On the eve of the ninth anniversary of the late Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa against Salman Rushdie, Iran's chief prosecutor yesterday called on Muslims worldwide to kill the novelist (Michael Theodoulou writes). "The shedding of this man's blood is obligatory," said Morteza Moqtadaie, a senior cleric.

Mercedes gift to Shevardnadze

Bonn: Germany has sent President Shevardnadze of Georgia a new armour-plated Mercedes to replace the one damaged in the assassination attempt on him in Tbilisi last Monday, the Foreign Ministry announced. The former Soviet Foreign Minister escaped unhurt from the attack in which grenade launchers were used. *(Reuters)*

SMALL CHANGE

With effect from 28 February 1998 the old, larger, heavier 50 pence coins will be withdrawn from circulation.

ROYAL MINT

Up to £200 off top name holidays when you switch to Barclaycard

£200 holiday discount when you transfer an existing credit card balance of £2,500 - £3,000

£50 discount on transfers of £1,500 - £2,499

£100 discount on transfers of £2,500 - £3,000

Thinking of booking your Summer holiday? Then switch to Barclaycard. Not just for the free Travel Accident Insurance. Or because you can use it in more than 14 million places and over a quarter of a million cash machines worldwide. But because we can save you up to £200 on hundreds of 1998/99 holidays.*

Simply transfer the balance on your existing credit or storecards to Barclaycard. And receive your discount voucher once your Barclaycard account is opened. It's that simple!

Call 0800 49 29 29

for full written details. Please quote code 019BG

Lines are open 24 hours

I would like to transfer my balance; please send me full written details and an application form. 019BG

Send to: Barclaycard, FREEPOST, BS 4335, Bristol BS13YX

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Title Surname First Names

Address

Postcode

Telephone

don't put it off put it on BARCLAYCARD

www.barclaycard.co.uk

Barclays Bank PLC. Registered in London, England Reg No 1026167. Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC4P 3AH.

*Travel Voucher offer only available to new Barclaycard account holders. One voucher per account. Discount voucher can only be redeemed against holidays costing a total of £750 or more. Further terms and conditions will apply.

هكذا من الاصل

The Israeli people are in the grip of hysteria, fearful that Saddam will launch a germ attack

Stiff upper lip from a family braced for war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL

AFTER two weeks thinking the unthinkable — preparing a household of one wife, two teenage boys and two cats, one unfortunately called Scud, for the rigours of chemical and biological warfare — it was salutary to be handed some statistics by the Israeli army.

These show that in 1991, when the Jewish state was hit by 39 Iraqi Scuds, the attacks themselves caused only two deaths, while seven people died as a result of incorrect use of their free germ-warfare kits, and 225 were treated in hospital for "unnecessary injection of atropine", the antidote given by the Government in case of gas attack.

The figures from a war in which Saddam never once used his feared chemical and biological arsenal were proof that in such warfare, fear and hysteria are often the deadliest enemies.

An Israeli mother was killed this week when she fell four floors climbing out of the window of her old flat after retrieving her children's gas masks from 1991. These are in short supply and Israelis have been told that the materials to enable the country's only gas mask factory to produce more will not arrive until next month.

Foreigners were left in the lurch when the factory was ordered to halt sales to individuals and concentrate on fulfilling its contract to the Israel Defence Force.

"At peak production following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, it was making 7,000 masks a day," reported *The Jerusalem Post*. "But due to government cutbacks, a lot of the machinery has been mothballed , and it will take time to get production back to that level."

My eldest son Mark said: "When our masks arrive from London, the first thing we have to do is to have training drills." His claim that in England in the Second World War gas masks were available for cats has met with little sympathy from Israelis who spend hours in ill-tempered gas mask queues. "The dynamics of mass hysteria are fascinating, and Israel seems to be the perfect place to study them," wrote columnist Susan Hattis Rolef, who noted the collective memory of death by gas under the Nazis. "The likelihood of anyone in Israel dying as a result of a non-conventional missile. . .is close to zero — yet the prospect is driving hundreds of thousands of Israelis into a state of hysteria. Why?"

One answer is the *Alice in Wonderland* precautions ordered by a Home Front Command so incompetent that its switchboard has collapsed twice already. It reminds me of the *Beyond the Fringe* sketch about crawling into a paper bag and reporting to your civil defence office in the event of nuclear attack.

In my house, there is a 12ftx8ft bomb shelter we have started to clean. But smart alecs say the "sealed room" where all gaps are covered with plastic sheeting and masking tape is a safer bet. There also has to be a television or radio set to receive government instructions during raids. "I just hope someone will be translating the Hebrew into English," remarked Julian, 14. As the Israelis have not yet lived up to their promise to give masks and anti-germ warfare kits to foreigners (these contain the so-called antidotes), we will not have to make the choice whether to inject them if Saddam does attack Israel with germs. When my unflappable wife Trisha questioned the lack of kits, I reminded her that one reason Martin Bell, Phillip Jacobson and other correspondents in 1991 were not affected by Gulf War Syndrome, the mystery illness that hit so many troops, was that they refused the little-tested vaccines given to soldiers.

"The most difficult thing is to avoid catching the Israeli panic, it is very contagious," said Palestinian journalist Jamil Hamad of *Time* Magazine.

As Jean Max, my secretary, observed, there is a fine line between doing nothing and getting caught up in the mass hysteria which has seen Israelis hoarding tins of food and illegally obtained antibiotics (supposedly a counter to anthrax). Earlier, an Israeli journalist claimed to have been told that if even one anthrax bomb hits Tel Aviv, the city will be shut off for 100 years and all survivors shot if they attempt to leave for fear of spreading the disease.

> A better talisman than any gas mask filter is Al Aqsa mosque which is visible from my patio

On instructions from *The Times* (and on the day the tabloid *Maariv* carried the claim that Saddam's arsenal may also contain viruses of the plague or monkey pox) the family debated whether to join the two per cent of Israelis expected to leave in the event of a Western attack on Baghdad.

To my surprise, the decision was to stay put. I suspect that memories of the dislocation caused in 1991 when they left Cairo which was under Iraqi threat, and especially of the food at the Chelsea school where the boys were temporarily placed may have been influential. Concern about Scud, the Persian, and his companion Bianca also played a part, plus a conviction that even Saddam cannot be crazy enough to want to bring Israeli nuclear bombs on his head.

Mark and Julian were both influenced by the cool heads of the staff of the Anglican International School, which plans to keep operating and whose principal sent a letter to parents saying that the newly built "Chorlton Hall" was being converted into a sealed room. "We do not think that there is any need for concern at this stage," he wrote.

For my part, a better talisman than any gas mask filter, atropine syringe or antibiotic cocktail is the Al Aqsa mosque, whose silver dome is visible from my patio. It is hard to believe that Saddam would destroy the third holiest Muslim shrine after Mecca and Medina.

If I am proved right, I shall never again curse the Muezzin when he wakes me with his 5am call to prayer.

Letters, page 23



DAN HADANI / IPPA

Close quarters: the author, with gas mask and short-wave radio, his sons Julian, 14, and Marcus, 17, holding cats Bianca and Scud, and wife Trisha try out the cramped bomb shelter at their home. "The most difficult thing is to avoid catching the Israeli panic," said an observer

Low, low prices on the things you need NOW

"You won't get better value for money."

KEY season PRICE



JULIA GREEN
Decor Department
Sales Supervisor
B&Q WIGSTON

B&Q Value Matt or Silk Emulsion
Pure Brilliant White.
5 litres.
Was £6.99
£5.99 each

Paint & Grain
SAVE £4
Ronseal Paint & Grain
Transforms most surfaces into an attractive grain effect. Includes basecoat, graining coat and tools. Available in various colours. 750ml.
Was £16.99
£12.99 each

Splash Bathroom Carpet
Available in pink, cream, blue and green.
1.52 x 1.83m Was £21.99 £19.99 each
2.29 x 1.83m Was £31.99 £29.99 each

SAVE £2
Covermaster Superior Coving
100mm x 2m lengths. Pack of 6.
Was £12.99
£10.99 per pack

Coloroll 'Acapulco Brights' Wallcoverings
Available in various colours and designs. 10m.
Was £5.99
£4.99 per roll
Co-ordinating Borders 5m.
Was £4.99 £3.99 per roll

SAVE £5
Dado Rail
20mm x 70mm x 2.4m. Pack of 6.
Was £34.99
£29.99 per pack

Essentials Table Lamp
With 10ins coolie shade. Available in various colours.
£10 each

Miniflood Security Light
150 watt halogen floodlight with PIR movement sensor. Also available in white.
Was £12.99
£10.49 each
SAVE £2.50

Philips 'Ecotone' Energy Saving Light Bulbs
9W, 11W, 15W, 20W in BC and ES bulbs. 23W also available in BC bulb only.
£9.99 each
USES 80% LESS ELECTRICITY AND LASTS UP TO 10 TIMES LONGER*

15 Panel Pine SA Glazed Internal Door
78ins x 30ins.
£31.99
FSC

2 Gang Switched Socket
Pack of 5.
Was £14.75
£13.75 per pack

MK46 Extension Reel
30m, 13amp and two sockets.
Was £22.99
SAVE £3
£19.99

Zag Toolbox with Tray
12.5ins. Available in dark blue/red.
£3.49

Keter Translucent Roller Box
Large, clear box with red lid on castors.
£12.99

SAVE £5
Black & Decker Multi Sander KA210
155 watts. Single speed. Orbital action. Includes dust cassette and adjustable handle.
Was £44.99 £42.49*
£39.99

Performance Power Mini Bench Drill CH10
1/4hp motor, 5 speed and 13mm chuck.
£39.99
See in store for other bench tools in our Performance Power tools range.

Performance Power 6ins Bench Grinder
240 volts. Single phase motor.
£22.99

SAVE £10
Kärcher 210 Pressure Washer
High pressure hose with trigger gun.
Was £99.99
£89.99

Pak-A-Plant
A selection of 6 young plants for growing on.

Fuchsia
Named varieties. Trailing and Upright.
£2.99 per pack

Geranium
Torbay Colour Mixed or Vista Red.
£1.99 per pack

B&Q Summer Flowering Bulbs
Gladioli Mixed
Size 12-14cm. Pack of 30.
£2.99 per pack
Lilies
Size 14-16cm. Pack of 3.
£2.29 per pack

Sankey GroWarm 100 Electric Heated Propagator
14ins, 12 watts heated base, air control side vents, capillary water mats and includes 2 seed trays.
Was £18.99 £16.99*
£12.99

Seed Potatoes Salad Varieties
Pink Fir Apple or Charlotte. 1kg.
£1.99 per pack
First Early Varieties
Homeguard, Maris Bard and other varieties. 3kg.
£2.99 per pack

Find any of them for less locally and we'll refund DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Ask in store for details.
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm. Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland 9am-6pm & Northern Ireland 1am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166
Internet – http://www.diy.co.uk

Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Key Season Price products are clearly marked in-store. If you find any for less locally we will refund double the difference. All we ask is that the lower price is generally available to any customer and that you call back within 14 days with your B&Q receipt. This excludes price comparisons made with B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots. *Compared to a 1,000 hour 'pell colour' bulb of similar output. †B&Q's FSC I.D. Code 396/050. FSC trade mark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please 'phone to check before travelling.

URGENT APPEAL

EARTHQUAKE IN AFGHANISTAN

Last week an earthquake killed over 4000 people in the Takhar Province of Afghanistan. Today thousands more are suffering in sub-zero temperatures - without shelter, warmth, medical supplies or clean water.

Despite the terrain, weather, and on-going civil war, a Red Cross land convoy and two Red Cross flights have already arrived in the region. But additional supplies are desperately needed to prevent further loss of life.

We urgently need your help. Just £25, or as much as you can give, will help us to save lives.

Please call now with your credit card donation.
0345 315 315
Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below.

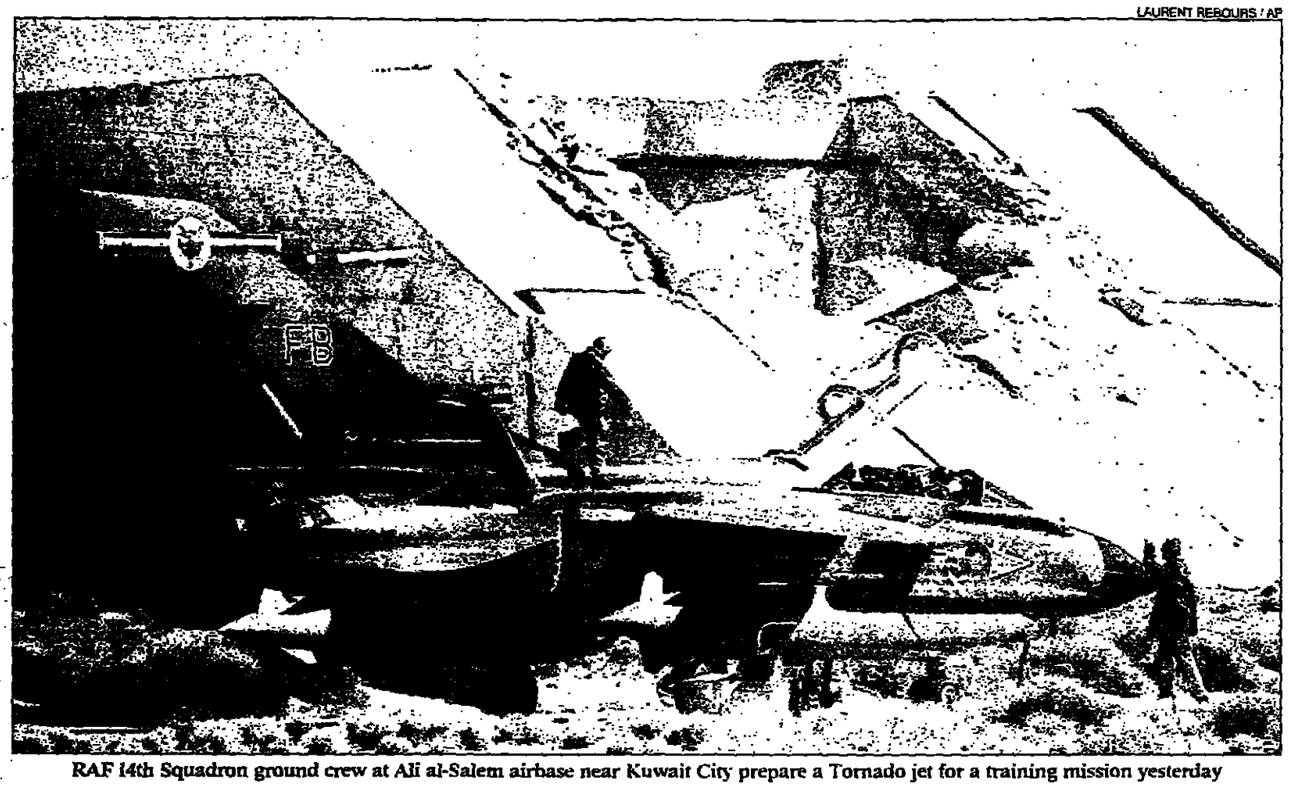
British Red Cross
Registered Charity No. 220949

I enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for
£250* £50 £30 £25 Other £
Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Diners Club/Switch Card.
No. Expiry Date:
Today's date: Signature:
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode: Tel:
Now please send this coupon with your donation, to: THE BRITISH RED CROSS AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL, ROOM 6C98, FREEPOST, LONDON SW1X 7BR
*A donation of £250 or more is worth almost a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax.
Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross
Tick this box if you would like a receipt.

هكذا من الاصل

Security Council's permanent members draw up compromise deal on weapons inspection

UN ready to offer Saddam a way out of conflict



LAURENT REBOURS / AP

RAF 14th Squadron ground crew at Ali al-Salem airbase near Kuwait City prepare a Tornado jet for a training mission yesterday

DIPLOMACY

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, and Richard Beeston in Moscow

A NEW formula for resolving the crisis with Iraq based on a compromise package produced by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council is seen as the best chance of avoiding a military clash.

Although the resolve to use military force as a last resort remains as strong as ever, there is now a perceptible change in the way the diplomatic efforts are progressing and in the language adopted by the main players.

Britain, which has previously stuck staunchly to the line that President Saddam Hussein must be forced to guarantee total access to the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom) inspectors or face military action, is taking a more conciliatory approach. There is now a degree of optimism, limited at this stage, that the Iraqis can be persuaded to agree to an inspection arrangement that will involve a greater element of respect for Iraq's sovereignty, one of the principal demands of the Iraqi leader.

The most important change is that although Unscom will remain the key inspection organisation, the permanent five — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — would also be represented for any checks carried out at the eight presidential sites which are suspected of harbouring weapons of mass destruction. That would allow Saddam to claim it was not Unscom inspecting his palaces, even though the visits would still involve Richard Butler, the head of Unscom, and other key members of his team.

Foreign Office sources said the important issue was to get Russia and France to agree to the new formula. China, they said, would be expected to go along with whatever Russia approved, as it had done in the past.

The Foreign Office sources said: "If the five permanent members of the Security Council can agree a formula which we believe has a good chance of being received positively in Baghdad, then Kofi Annan [the UN Secretary-General] will go to Baghdad next week."

They added: "This will be far better than having the Russians rushing back and forth between Moscow and Baghdad and coming back with vague ideas that are never in writing."

Russia stepped up its pressure on Mr Annan yesterday to start his last-ditch mission and secure a peaceful resolution to the stand-off. Amid signs that Moscow is concerned that military action is becoming an inevitability, Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, said that Russia was still working hard to head off the threat of airstrikes.

"Russia believes one cannot talk about failed diplomatic efforts or reach a verdict before Kofi Annan goes to Baghdad," Mr Primakov said after meeting William Cohen, the visiting US Defence Secretary. "Now a very important moment has come for [the] UN Secretary-General to go there [to Baghdad]."

Russia is known to be working on a final compromise deal, although Britain and America have said repeatedly that nothing short of full compliance with UN resolutions, allowing weapons inspectors unlimited access to suspected mass weapons sites, is acceptable.

Mr Cohen repeated Washington's position that it still wanted a peaceful settlement, but he said that diplomacy would not continue indefinitely. "Diplomacy will continue until we decide there's no longer any point left," he said.

☐ **"Spy" hotel:** The Hilton National Hotel in Basingstoke, Hampshire, said that it had hosted a conference of about 50 Unscom inspectors in 1996 which, as reported yesterday, was spied on by the Russians. The hotel said it had known nothing of the espionage involvement.

Plea on filling gaps in civilian defence

From Ross Dunn in Jerusalem and Bronwen Maddox in Washington

ISRAELI leaders may ask America not to attack Iraq until preparations to defend their citizens are finished, said Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister.

He told the Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharonot* he did not rule out the possibility that, "should Israel's civil defences not be prepared, Israel will appeal to the US, asking it to delay the military action until preparations are completed".

After Mr Mordechai's meeting with William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, it was agreed that Washington would supply equipment to detect risks in the event of a biological weapons attack. A team of Israeli military officers will travel to the US next week to train to use the equipment, the first time it has been offered to another country.

ISRAEL

In Washington yesterday, President Clinton reiterated that Russian opposition to military action would not deter America. "It is difficult for Russia; its relationship with Iran long predates Saddam Hussein," Mr Clinton said.

But while emphasising that "I hope our relationship with Russia continues to be productive and strong", the President said: "I simply do not believe it is acceptable to permit Iraq to walk away from its obligations."

Laser-guided arsenal aims at improving bombers' strike rate

By Michael Evans Defence Correspondent

WEAPONS

THE RAF is prepared for airstrikes on Iraq with equipment that is even more sophisticated than the advanced electronic devices fitted to American combat aircraft.

A modified version of the Thermal Imaging Airborne Laser Designator (Tiald) system that was fitted to Tornado GR1s in the 1991 Gulf War to guarantee accurate bombing has been rushed through production and installed on the Harrier GR7s currently operating from *HMS Invincible*, the aircraft carrier in the Gulf.

The Tiald system, the most advanced airborne laser designator available, worked effectively in the Gulf War, using thermal imaging to identify the target. However, a number of lessons were learnt from the 1991 conflict, the most important of which was that weather conditions and the humidity of the Gulf could blur the picture provided by the sensor.

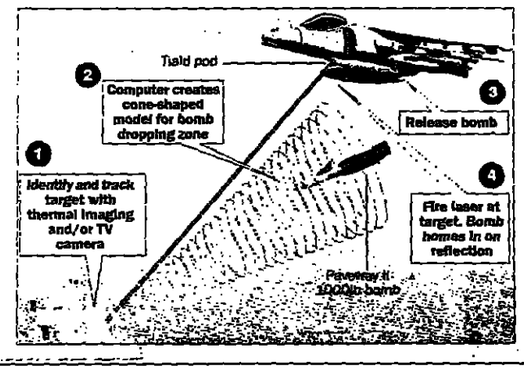
Since the Gulf War, GEC Marconi, the system's designer, has introduced several modifications. Now there is a dual sensor system, using thermal imaging and television pictures, which are unaffected by humidity. RAF pilots will be able switch from one system to the other, providing greater flexibility and enhancing the chance of correctly identifying the target.

Once the target is identified, an automatic tracking system locks on to the target as the aircraft approaches. At this point the pilot, using a satellite-linked global positioning system and a mission-planning computer in the cockpit, tosses the Paveway II 1,000lb bomb, into an imaginary conical "basket" leading directly to the target. As soon as the bomb is on its way, a laser beam is fired at the target. The bomb homes in on the reflected energy from the beam as it hits the target.

The laser-guidance can either be operated by the bomber pilot or, as is more frequently the case, by other Tornado GR1s or Harrier GR7s, which act as laser designators for the rest of the bombers lining up in a "cab rank" to hit pre-selected targets.

The Tornados, eight of which have recently been deployed to al-Salim air base in Kuwait, are also equipped with advanced reconnaissance equipment that could prove vital in air raids because of the importance of providing accurate damage assessment.

☐ **Lunar guidance:** It is widely believed that an allied attack on Iraq will not happen until the next new moon on February 26, when the night sky is at its darkest.



LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

life assurance?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

£50,300 of *life* cover for just 20p* a day

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need it? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just 20p* a day (subject to individual details), a lump sum is paid should you die during the term of the policy. For that premium, a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £50,300 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the term of the policy and the amount of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call 0500 33 66 66 or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

*Equivalent to £6.08 a month.

Minimum premium of £5.00 per month equates to 17p a day.

free £10 Interflora voucher

WHEN YOUR APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED AND FIRST PREMIUM PAID

0500 33 66 66

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER C3/DL08

Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of birth ___/___/19___

Tel no. home _____ Tel no. work _____

Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC0467), Cardiff CF1 1YW (no stamp required)

Further information on other Legal & General products is available on our website: http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk

Call NOW for an instant quote

Ref C3/DL08

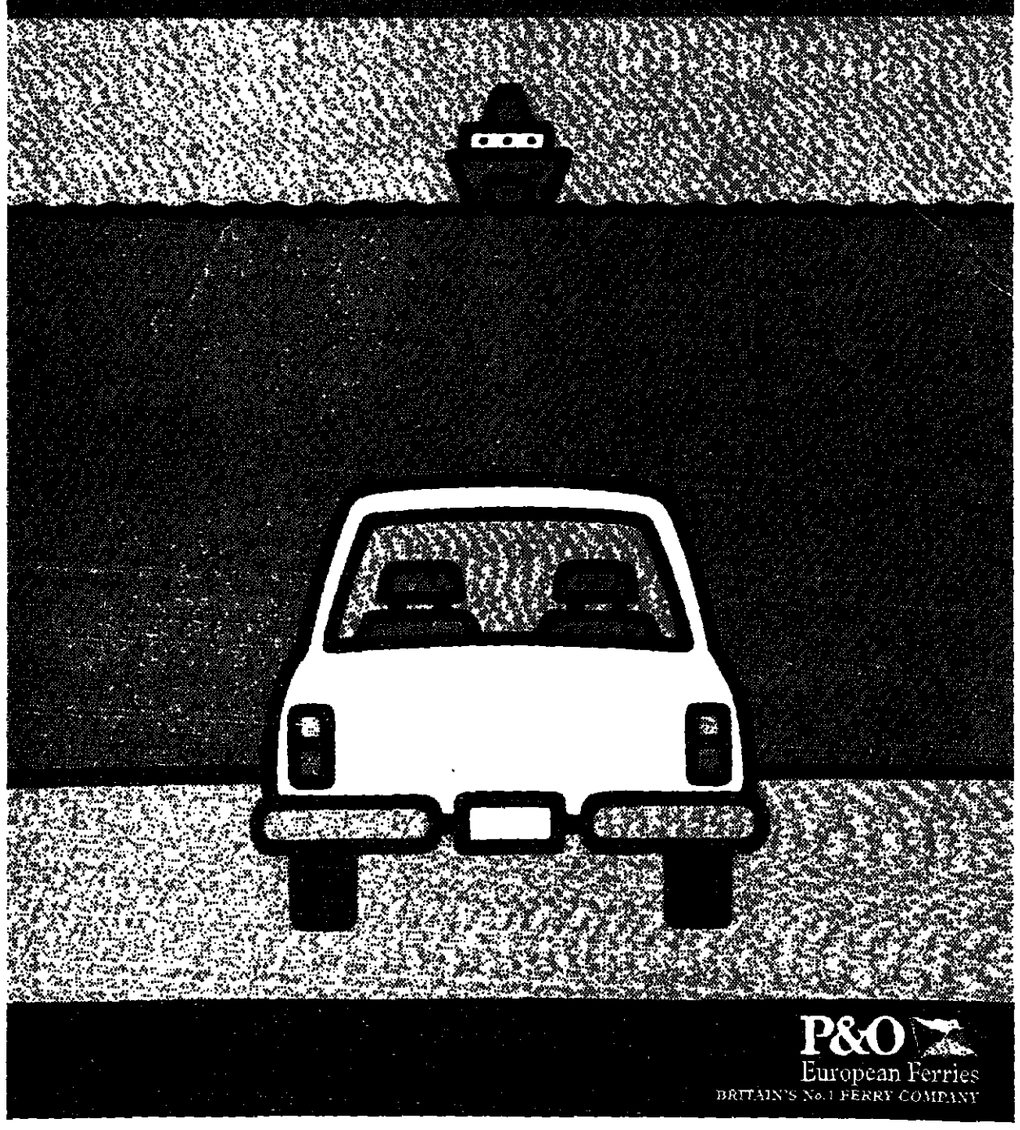
Legal & General

trust us to deliver

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address below. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life-assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

BOOK NOW FOR £98 BEFORE YOU MISS THE BOAT.

Book and pay before 31st March for our best offer of 1998. Just £98 buys a return ticket for travel at any time during 1998 (price includes car, driver and up to 8 passengers). Whether it's winter sports, an Easter break, or a relaxing 2 week summer holiday, go with P&O European Ferries between Dover and Calais and save up to £122 on our peak standard brochure fares. Fancy a short break? Our 5 day return fare is only £50, a mere drop in the ocean. Give us a call now on 0990 980 980, from 07.30-22.30, 7 days a week.



P&O European Ferries

BRITAIN'S No.1 FERRY COMPANY

هكذا من الاصل

Risking their lives to reclaim the dead

Their families call them the disappeared. The IRA calls them bogjobs. **Martin Fletcher** on one Irish family's search for a lost relative

CRISPIN RODWELL



Helen McKendry said the IRA "tried to destroy our feeling for our mother"

HELEN and Seamus McKendry are Roman Catholics who fled West Belfast two years ago. They live with their five children in a cottage deep in the countryside in Co Down near Strangford Lough. If the dogs bark, or a car stops in the lane outside, they hurry to the window to check it is not a death squad. "You can't hide from the Provos," Mr McKendry said, "but you can make it more awkward for them."

The McKendrys have committed the unpardonable sin of embarrassing the IRA and its Sinn Fein associates. They have had the temerity to demand it disclose where it buried Mrs McKendry's mother, Jean McConville, after abducting and killing her in 1972.

Still worse, the McKendrys publicly campaign for the IRA to identify the graves of all those wayward members of its own community that it executed and buried in fields or building sites. They know of at least a dozen "disappeared" but there are scores more whose families dare not speak or cling to the illusion that missing relatives were exiled. The IRA calls them "bogjobs".

Sinn Fein's resistance has become increasingly untenable. It insists all IRA prisoners be released on the ground that the "war" is over. Yet it refuses to come clean about the IRA's crimes against its own people. "The Shinners are the greatest human rights campaigners till it comes to their own backyard," Mr McKendry said. "The disappeared are causing them more hurt now than they ever did alive."

Jean McConville was a Protestant but she married a Catholic. They had ten children, of which Helen McKendry was the fourth. In 1969, as sectarian violence erupted in Northern Ireland, a dozen men arrived at their home in Protestant East Belfast, put a gun to Mr McConville's head and told him to "get himself and his Fenian bastards out". The family moved to the infamous Divis Flats in West Belfast, a republican stronghold. Mrs McKendry's father died of lung cancer in January 1972. That March her oldest brother was interned as an IRA suspect. Her mother had a breakdown and entered a psychiatric hospital but was back in Divis Flats by autumn when a soldier was shot outside her door. She cradled his head and whispered a prayer as he died.

Slogans such as "soldier lover" were daubed on the McConvilles' door. Their windows were broken. On the night of December 6 Mrs McConville went out to play bingo, was abducted and beaten. The Army found her and took her home. The next evening eight men and four women burst into the flat and dragged her screaming to a van. They told the family not to get in touch with the police because she would return in a few hours. They never saw her again. Mrs McKendry was 15. For weeks she looked after six younger siblings and a mentally handicapped older sister. Neighbours helped with food. None dared tell the authorities. "It was the law of the ghetto. You didn't say anything," Mr McKendry said. That January a stranger arrived and handed over her mother's purse and three rings. In February social workers dispersed the family to different homes.



Jean McConville: went missing 26 years ago

The IRA put it about that Mrs McConville had slept with "the entire British Army", Mrs McKendry said. "They were trying to destroy our feeling for our mother." She married in 1976 and the couple began their long search for the truth. They asked around in clubs and pubs. They approached senior IRA men. Mr McKendry once marched into Sinn Fein's Belfast headquarters. They were told that the matter was closed, and for their own good to let the matter rest. Once Mr McKendry was asking questions in a republican bar when a friend of his father's passed him a docket and some money and told him to place a bet in the bookies next door. On the docket were scribbled the words "Get the **** out now". He ran.

In February 1995 Gerry Adams visited them. The Sinn Fein president questioned whether the IRA was involved and sent a man round to take a statement. Nothing happened. The McKendrys decided to go public. That summer they formed a pressure group, Families of the Disappeared. Their car was vandalised and Mr McKendry was advised to leave Belfast.

The McKendrys' only break came a year ago when a man claiming to be one of Mrs McConville's abductors offered a priest information in return for money. He identified a house off the Falls Road where he said Mrs McConville had been interrogated. He said he had seen four men take her out and return without her. The McKendrys believe she was buried on adjacent land that has since been built on.

Mrs McKendry doubts the IRA will ever reveal the whereabouts of the body. It would be too awful an admission and would turn the community against its self-styled protectors. "If we buried her now it would be a funeral the size of Bobby Sands's," Mr McKendry said. "People would turn out in their thousands to show their disgust."

The victims who know no resting place

1972: Seamus Wright, a young IRA member from West Belfast, became an army informer to avoid a murder charge, then fed information back to the IRA to save his life.

He named Kevin McKee, another young IRA volunteer, as an informer, and McKee also became a double agent.

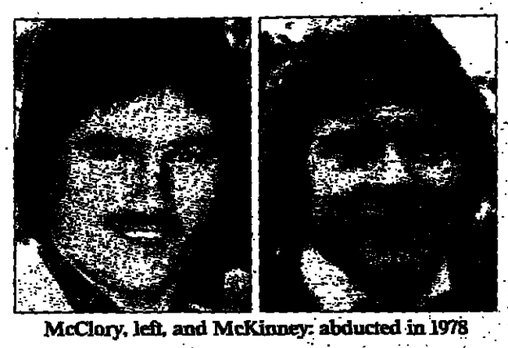
They exposed a major army undercover operation run from the Four Square Laundry in West Belfast, but were executed when their usefulness ran out.

Their deaths were kept secret because they were from prominent republican families. They are believed to be buried in fields in South Armagh. McKee's execution was allegedly witnessed by a priest who had administered his last rites.

1974: John McIlroy and Seamus Wright, both from Andersonstown in West Belfast, disappeared on their way to work. They were suspected informers.

1975: Columba McVeigh, 17, from Dungannon in Co Tyrone, was charged with a false offence so that he could mingle with IRA men inside the Crumlin Road prison. They were not deceived. On his release, he went to Dublin, but was captured and executed.

1978: John McClory, 18, and Brian McKinney, 22, were both petty criminals from Andersonstown. They were abducted from youth training jobs and never seen again.



McClory, left, and McKinney: abducted in 1978

1979: Gerald Evans, an unemployed painter from staunchly republican Crossmaglen in South Armagh, did not tow the IRA's line.

He was last seen hitchhiking home from Castleblayney.

1980: Charlie Armstrong, 55, was Evans's old neighbour in Crossmaglen. He went out to collect a woman friend for Mass one Sunday and was never seen again.

1981: Eugene Simmons, 23, left a new-year party in Castelwellan, Co Down, with a group of men.

He was a suspected informer. Three years later, a man walking a dog found his body in a bog with a bullet hole in the temple.

ADVERTISEMENT

Homeowners

If you want to afford a better lifestyle...

The **Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ (S.A.M.s™)** is an exciting new concept from Bank of Scotland. There are two **S.A.M.s,™** both of which allow you to raise money quickly and easily, and with a low interest rate fixed for life, presently **0%** or **5.99%**.

How does it work?

As the name suggests, all we ask from you when leaving the scheme is that you share with us a percentage of any future appreciation in value of your property, together with repayment of the loan.

The interest rate chosen determines the level of appreciation you will be required to pay when leaving the scheme. Any equity you currently have in the property remains yours, except in the event of any future decrease in the value of your home.

In any case where the property value falls below the initial value, there will be no Shared Appreciation to pay.

0% S.A.M.™

- Zero % interest fixed for life
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 25% of property valuation

5.99% S.A.M.™

- 5.99% fixed for life
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 75% of property valuation

Who decides what the funds can be used for?

You do! Whether you want to raise money to improve your lifestyle by investing for the future, carrying out those long desired home improvements, repaying an existing mortgage, treating yourself to a holiday or purchasing that dream car, then the **Shared Appreciation Mortgage™** may be the solution for you.

Can I repay the mortgage at any time?

Yes! The choice of when to repay the mortgage is yours. You can exit at any time, or alternatively it can be repaid on death, or death of the surviving partner, if a joint mortgage.

To apply

It couldn't be easier. Simply call us, or contact your local branch for an application form and brochure. Alternatively, if it is more convenient, cut out the coupon and send it to us. We will then arrange to send you the brochures.

BANK OF SCOTLAND®
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES
Call us today from 10am – 4pm or Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm on
0131 317 6827
0131 317 6828
0131 317 6829

Please send me more information on the Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ Post to: Bank of Scotland, Residential Mortgages, (S.A.M.s™) Team, FREEPOST (Licence No. EH 337), 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 0PD.

☐ 0% Scheme ☐ 5.99% Scheme ☐ Both Schemes

Name: TIM06

Address:

Postcode: Telephone Number:

We are obliged under the provision of the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1989 to include this statement because you are required to create a mortgage over your home as security for the loan.

Typical mortgage example: The example is based on representative information as follows: house value of £130,000. A loan of £71,500 with Shared Appreciation of 55%. Although the loan can be for life this example is based on the whole of the loan and Shared Appreciation being repaid after 20 years. The chargeable rate of interest is 5.99%. Total amount payable will be £260,034 to include 240 monthly interest payments of £356.90, Shared Appreciation (£100,938), Arrangement Fee (£500), Legal Fees (£600), Valuation Fees on entrance and exit totalling (£540) and an Administration Fee (£3000). *All amounts are calculated without the benefit of MIRAS.*

APR 9.0%. APR based on representative information set out above. House price inflation, valuation and legal fees may vary.

To apply for a mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Written consumer credit quotations are available on request from BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 5 PLC, No. 6 PLC, and Scotland (No. 3) ltd, Teviot House, 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9DR. All lending is subject to approval by Bank of Scotland as agent for BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 5 PLC, No. 6 PLC, and Scotland (No. 3) ltd, of the applicant(s) financial status. BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 5 PLC, No. 6 PLC, and Scotland (No. 3) ltd, require security over the property. An acceptable life assurance policy is also required. Valuations are also required on subsequent damage or compulsory purchase of property or if you make improvements costing more than £10,000. All valuations at your cost. Valuation fees vary depending on property valuation. Limited funds available. Currently not available in Northern Ireland. BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 5 PLC, BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 6 PLC, and BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages (Scotland) No. 3) ltd are owned subsidiaries of Bank of Scotland. The name Bank of Scotland and ⚜ are registered trademarks, and (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) and S.A.M. are trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

هكذا من الاصل



De Niro: now his lawyer has launched a legal action against the magistrate

De Niro is reluctant extra in real-life French sex saga

Ben Macintyre reports on an international vice ring with a cast that includes ministers, arms dealers, actresses and Arab princes

IN OTHER circumstances, it is the sort of plot that Robert De Niro might have relished: a complicated saga of international vice with a varied cast of Arab royalty, Hollywood actresses, arms dealers, government ministers, sportsmen, shady spies, dodgy doctors, former policemen, pimps and prostitutes. And lots of sex.

But the American film star's walk-on part this week in the French legal investigation into an international prostitution ring was probably the least enjoyable of his career.

On Tuesday, Mr De Niro was escorted from his hotel in Paris, where he is filming a thriller under the direction of John Frankenheimer, to be subjected to a nine-hour interrogation in a case that began as a routine vice investigation and has since grown into an international scandal with diplomatic, political and economic implications.

At the instigation of Frédéric N'Guyen, the investigating magistrate — a hard-nosed man straight out of central casting — Mr de Niro was questioned — as a witness, not a suspect — about his relations with three suspected call girls. The actor said that he had "shaken hands" with two of the women cited, had done rather more than shake hands with the third and had paid not a penny to any of them. Mr De Niro's link to the case appears to be no more than incidental. But his name has helped to focus attention on the investigation, which, according to Mr De Niro's lawyer, is why Judge N'Guyen chose to detain him with a posse of ten policemen and maximum fanfare. The magistrate is now the target of a legal action launched by Mr De Niro's lawyer.

The train of events began in October 1996, when the Paris vice squad raided a 16th arrondissement flat belonging to Annika Brumark, a Swedish former model suspected of running an upmarket call-girl service.

Arrested with Ms Brumark were Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, a soft-porn photographer suspected of recruiting young women, and Nazih Al Ladki, an alleged middleman in the operation. He described himself as an adviser to the Saudi monarchy but was called by others — after one of the most famous French brothel-keepers — as the "Madame Claude of the Middle East". The ring, offering a select "stable" of about 50 women, allegedly charged customers up to Fr50,000 (£5,000) a night for a discreet, cosmopolitan service.

It was the scale of the racket and, most importantly, its clientele that turned a simple vice sweep into a diplomatic hot potato. Judge N'Guyen, who charged the trio with "pimping on a grand scale", uncovered diaries, letters and address books containing hundreds of names. Mr Al Ladki provided investigators with the identities of Saudi princes and other Gulf notables he said were regular customers. Call girls, he said, had been used for years as "perks" to smooth business deals.

The oddest moment came when the accused middleman claimed to have arranged an athletic evening on the Riviera involving a Hollywood actress and an Arab prince, who was said to have paid $1 million (£600,000). The female participant was identified later in a French gossip magazine as Brigitte Nielsen, the Danish actress and former wife of Sylvester Stallone. She has denied the allegation, but Judge N'Guyen has said he would like to interview her.

A meticulous investigator with a rottweiler reputation, Judge N'Guyen, began trawling through the documents and interviewing witnesses, to the growing consternation of the authorities. Gulf oil states are important purchasers of military hardware and, according to *Le Monde*, the former conservative Government in France, fearing for its Middle Eastern trade links, felt moved to apply the brakes.

The Justice Ministry let it be known that Judge N'Guyen would be well advised to limit the investigation to those already charged. He did nothing of the sort and, with the election of a new Government and a new Justice Minister, there were signs that Judge N'Guyen would be given more leeway. A few days after the election in June, vice squad officers arrested Paul Barril, a former policeman who operated a secret security cell under the late François Mitterrand.

M Barril had been dismissed for alleged misconduct and went on to become security adviser to the former Emir of Qatar. He was questioned for 24 hours about depositions from Moroccan prostitutes who said that he had helped them to enter the country, possibly with the aid of French consular officials in Casablanca. The vice squad also visited the Hôtel Crillon, where the former Emir had been living. M Barril was cleared and released, but Judge N'Guyen plodded implacably on: Alain Meyer, a Cannes doctor, was placed under investigation for alleged "complicity with aggravated pimping". The doctor, allegedly in the pay of a member of the Saudi royal family, admitted testing women for sexually transmitted diseases before they were introduced to clients. Dr Meyer is said to have told the police: "I can give you the names of several personalities or Arab princes who asked me to carry out tests on young women."

Sources say that Judge N'Guyen has by no means exhausted the names in his dossier, but with much more than reputations at stake, the key question is how far the authorities will allow him to proceed with his embarrassing inquiries.


Brumark, left, suspected of running an upmarket call-girl service, and, right, Barril, who has been cleared and released

Junta chiefs flee to Liberia as Freetown falls to 'peace' force

By David Orr

SPORADIC fighting continued yesterday in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, as senior officials of the country's ousted junta fled to neighbouring Liberia.

Two helicopter gunships carrying officials from the toppled military regime of Lieutenant-Colonel Koroma landed in the Liberian capital of Monrovia. They were seized and taken away to the Monrovia headquarters of Ecomog, the regional peacekeeping force which is trying to restore constitutional rule in Sierra Leone.

"They are officials, including some ministers of the junta," said General Timothy Shelpidi, the commander of the Nigerian-led Ecomog force.

Only hours earlier, a leading junta minister had bragged: "We are not going to give ourselves up. Sierra Leone is ours."

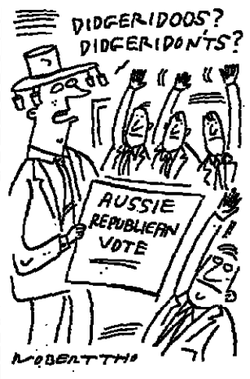
The Ecomog intervention force is attempting to reinstate Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, the democratically-elected president of Sierra Leone who was overthrown in a military coup last May. President Kabbah has been living in exile in Guinea.

"We have occupied 80 per cent of the capital city," General Shelpidi said yesterday after a week of fighting in and around Freetown. "The junta have taken to their heels."

He said his immediate objective was to mop up pockets of resistance and to consolidate Ecomog's hold on the capital. There have been reports of widespread looting as the troops closed in on the city.

Ecomog troops had earlier cut off roads out of the city, which overlooks the Atlantic. As the fighting raged in the hills around Freetown, boatloads of frightened civilians took to the water and set out on the ten-hour journey to Guinea.

There are already 3,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expects the exodus to go on as long as the fighting continues. The military junta had been due to hand power back to President Kabbah in April.



Australia to vote on split from Britain

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

AUSTRALIA moved a step nearer to becoming a republic yesterday after the Constitutional Convention in Canberra voted by an overwhelming majority to hold a referendum on whether to sever formal ties with Britain. Only 17 of the 152 delegates voted against the republican proposal being put to a national vote and two abstained.

The most crucial vote of the day, however, on how to appoint a president, revealed a much greater division. Finally, the official Republican Movement model, in which the head of state would be nominated by the people but appointed by Parliament, attracted 73 votes, while 57 voted for the monarchy and 22 abstained.

The outcome reflects widespread dissatisfaction with such an arrangement among the Australian people, who believe they should have the right to elect their own president, irrespective of the views of those who govern them.

Despite being an avowed monarchist, John Howard, the Prime Minister, found himself a hero of the proceedings as the delegates gave him a roar of approval.

"I've learnt something that I wasn't sure of at the beginning, and that is I have no doubt Australia can conduct a referendum on this issue with vigour, with passion and with meaning, yet in a way which doesn't undermine or fracture the essential values of our society," he said.

The referendum, which will be held next year, would require the support of a majority of people in a majority of states before a republic could be declared. Even then, it might face a series of legal challenges. History shows that Australia has a poor record of passing referendums, with only eight successful changes to the constitution since 1901.

Dealers shell out for Louisiana love potion

From Tunku Varadarajan in Baton Rouge

LOUISIANA'S oyster dealers have sent a gallon of their finest catch to the state's 70-year-old Governor a day after he announced that he had been trying to have a baby with his wife, 33.

Edwin Edwards received the Valentine's Day offering with his customary good humour. He said: "I'll eat good salty Louisiana oysters any time I get the chance. Candy will be the real beneficiary of this gift." Candy is the feisty Governor's second wife, whom he married four years ago after a long, old-fashioned courtship. A wealthy heiress, she was 25 when they met.

So tickled is Mr Edwards by the oystermen's gesture that he has agreed to appear in advertisements that say, "Edwards accepts oyster love potion". He will not charge for endorsing the product that has for long been mythologised as an aphrodisiac.

Mr Edwards is in his fourth term as Governor of this southern state. His political career, which began in 1963 — before his present wife was born — has been peppered with controversy and allegations of corruption. No scandal, however, has dimmed his popularity with the voters.

Mr Edwards, a Cajun, is best known for promoting the French language: most famously, in 1983, he led a contingent of 600 Louisianians "back to their roots" in Paris.

LONDON
UNBEATABLE BREAKS
BED AND FULL TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST FROM
£29
£39

Hotel	Telephone	Location	Price
Le Méridien Piccadilly	0171 734 8000	West End	£95
Le Méridien Waldorf**	0171 836 2400	West End	£75
Grosvenor House	0171 499 6363	West End	£69
The Cavendish	0171 930 2111	West End	£59
The Cumberland Hotel	0171 262 1234	West End	£55*
Strand Palace Hotel	0171 836 8080	West End	£49*
Hotel Russell	0171 837 6470	West End	£45*
Saint Georges Hotel	0171 580 3111	West End	£55
Regent Palace Hotel†	0171 734 7000	West End	£29
Posthouse Kensington	0171 937 8170	Kensington	£42*
Posthouse Regent's Park	0171 388 2300	Regent's Park	£42*
Posthouse Hampstead	0171 794 8121	Hampstead	£39*
Posthouse Bloomsbury	0171 837 1200	West End	£42*
Posthouse Heathrow**	0181 759 2552	Heathrow	£29
Forte Crest Heathrow**	0181 759 7323	Heathrow	£85
The Excelsior Heathrow**	0181 759 6611	Heathrow	£85

** FoFSat only † No ensuite facilities

• Prices are per person, per night including accommodation, full traditional breakfast & VAT at 17.5% based on 2 adults sharing a twin/double room.
• Single supplement charge applicable - please ask Reservation agents for details.
• Ask about our theatre breaks when making your booking.

Offer available until 28th February 1998
*Available until 31st March 1998

FORTE

Book before 23rd February 1998. See your travel agent, call the hotel of your choice or call
0345 40 40 40
quoting reference LON 2

MERIDIEN | Posthouse | LONDON SIGNATURE HOTELS

Find yourself a new flame
Call us to make a hot date

Install central heating now, pay September '98 (after 10% deposit)
FREE shower

Call 0345 754 754
Local rate call. Please quote VA/TM.

From the company that loves to keep you warm

- Buy new central heating now and pay only 10% deposit then nothing until September '98*
- Then spread the cost over 12–60 months*
- Receive a FREE shower (normal price £249) when you order new central heating worth £1,500 or more before 2nd May
- Enter our competition and you could win £1,500 worth of Going Places holiday vouchers*†
- No-quibble 12 month guarantee including a year's FREE Three Star Service Cover†
- Call 0345 754 754 for a free no-obligation quotation

or post this coupon today
No stamp required.
I would like an appointment with a Technical Adviser ☐
I would like more information about gas central heating ☐
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address _____
_____ Town _____
County _____ Postcode _____
Tel No (day) _____
Tel No (eve) _____
If you do not wish to be advised of other products from British Gas or other reputable organisations tick here ☐
VA/TM
Please complete and return to: British Gas Services, Freepost CV2909, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9BR.

*Credit subject to status. Written quotation on request. APR 29%. Offers end 2/5/98. †Going Places holiday voucher offer ends 15/5/98. Competition rules available on request. This does not affect your statutory rights. Free Service Cover and free shower offer do not apply to Economy packages.

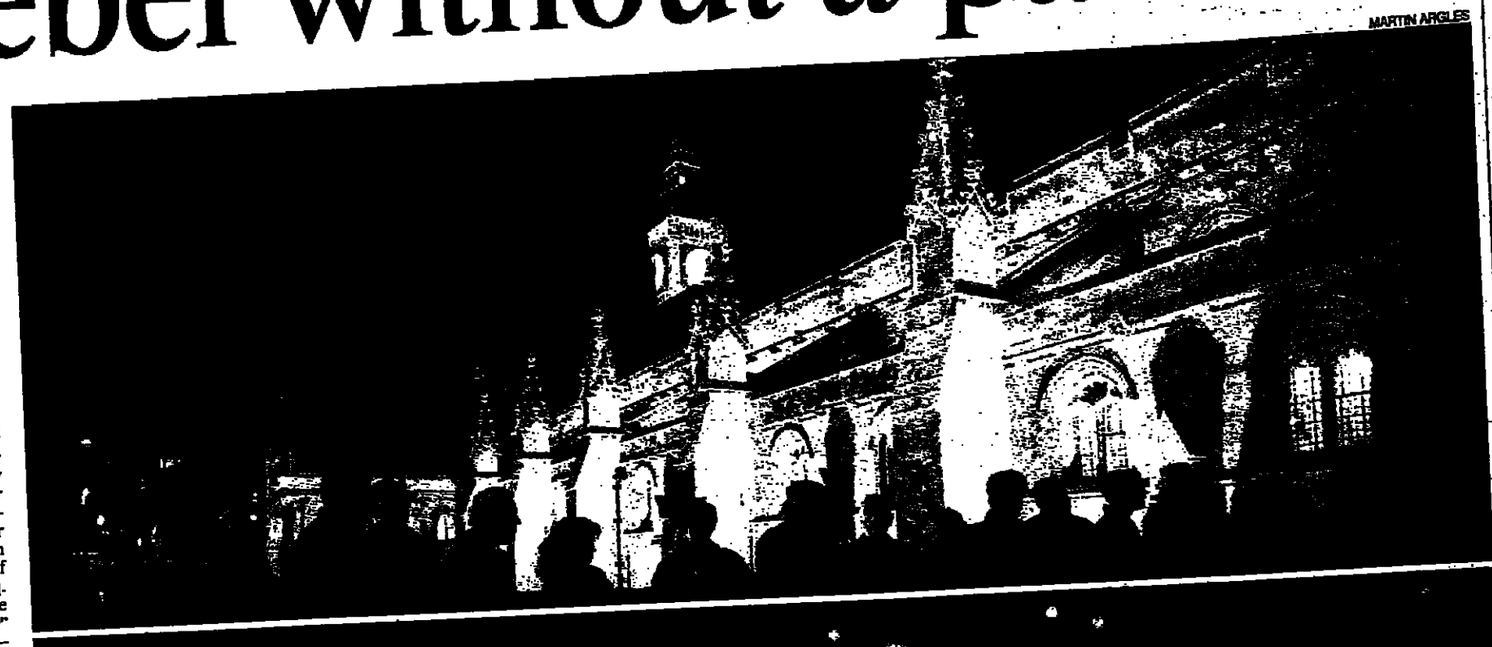
British Gas Services

هكذا من الاصل

VALERIE GROVE MEETS: **HAROLD PINTER**

Rebel without a pause

MARTIN ARGLES





Pinter and his wife, Lady Antonia Fraser, arrive at the House of Commons for the meeting. A queue formed and many were unable to get into the Great Committee Room

Can it be ten years since the Pinters launched their 20th June group? Harold Pinter and his wife, you remember, were hosts to a group of writers (Greer, Rushdie, McEwan, Drabble, etc), who met in their drawing room in 1988 to discuss how best to get Mrs Thatcher's Government out.

Ten years on, with the glorious victory of May 1997 only nine months old, and the sun shining on Cool Britannia, Pinter is in his scriptorium at the end of his Kensington garden, dressed as always from head to foot in black, which reflects his mood. Has new Labour fulfilled its longed-for promise? Far from it. On Thursday night he was one of the star speakers at the House of Commons, where two dissident Labour MPs, George Galloway and Tam Dalyell, organised the first rally of the Emergency Committee on Iraq.

It was, Pinter told me the morning after, a very "intense" gathering. "Jam-packed," he said — and I know, because I was one of several hundreds outside who failed to get in: the queue stretched back to Westminster Bridge and only the first 250 had squeezed into the Great (but not great enough) Committee Room.

Alongside me in the disaffected queue was the poet Adrian Mitchell, whom I first met in the 1960s at anti-Vietnam protests and who was the first to produce a poem about Russia's march on Prague in August 1968. For him, as for Pinter, there was a bitter irony in attending a protest meeting against the long-awaited Labour Government, so soon after its victory.

"That this Government," Pinter was saying in his stentorian tones inside the hall, "can so glibly ally itself to such a pointless, utterly irresponsible and profoundly dangerous enterprise is lamentable. And that this is the Government we elected to office with such high hopes in May of last year is a wretched and shameful irony . . .

"One can also detect a palpable excitement in the Cabinet at the mere thought of dropping some big bombs. You don't get a chance to do that in Opposition."

The morning after, Pinter elaborated on the "nausea" he felt about Blair's simpering support for the US Government, "a bovine monster out of control". "It would be farcical if it were not so precarious. It could stumble from grim farce into carastrophe. Clinton and Blair don't seem to have thought about that at all. There seems to be a wonderful air of non-thinking over the pair of them, as they stand posturing and smiling at each other.

"This Labour Government, whatever that means, has gone down on its knees, without any thought, argument, or discussion, in lapdog support of Clinton, which I believe could be humiliating for this country."

The irony for him, said Pinter, was indeed profound. "The exultation on May 2, 1997, throughout the whole country, has just collapsed into mud. This I think is the final nail in the coffin of those high hopes. Let's face it, what Blair is doing here is actually worse than what Thatcher did. Even Thatcher was pretty pissed off by the US invasion of Grenada. And when they used our air bases to bomb Libya, there was at least some consideration about whether to grant permission."

Apart from questioning the legality of blasting Iraq without UN backing, Pinter is convinced there are further dangers.

"What's going to happen if you blow up a store of chemical weapons and release the stuff? Nobody seems to know, not even Robin Cook. Where does it go? He has no answer. He says the pilots will know what they are doing, which makes no sense whatsoever.

"Saddam Hussein, if driven to defiance and revenge, will send those chemical weapons into Israel — and Israel would have no compunction whatever about sending in return one of those nuclear bombs that they are not supposed to have. Their nuclear capacity remains uninspected. As Rana Kabbani said last night, the one person who has spilt the beans about it is Vanunu, now in his 11th year of solitary confinement."

Pinter the playwright first waxed vociferous in his opposition to the American Government in 1975 over its involvement in the overthrow of President Allende in Chile: "And I've never stopped since." No protest meeting would be complete without Pinter smouldering on its platform. The vulnerability of Thursday's meeting, I suggest, is that the gung-ho militarists will dismiss it as a predictable rounding up of the Usual Suspects — Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn, Diane Abbott (despite the presence also of Frances de la Tour, and the Rev Donald Reeves). "But they," said Pinter, "are a very fine group of extremely responsible and intelligent people who speak out honestly and at least preserve the dignity of parliament and earn our respect, rather than giving us lies, lies and hogwash. And there were many impressive, lucid Iraqi exiles present at the meeting, who came to the same conclusion — that the act of bombing Iraq was a pointless act of international terrorism, which would do no good whatsoever and would only succeed in killing a lot of people."



Pinter concedes that Saddam is a monster. "But monstrosity is being compounded by further monstrosity. Clinton has been killing so many Iraqi children in the last few years, from starvation or malnutrition or in pain, for the lack of drugs, which cannot get through at all.

"George Galloway told us last night a vivid story about two peace activists who went to Iraq carrying antibiotics. When they got there they opened their bags and found the antibiotics had gone — with a note saying 'These packets have been removed by HM Customs'."

And what is the answer to the Defence Secretary's question, if you do nothing, what happens? "You continue to negotiate. There must be a compromise about the inspection team. But it is palpably obvious that the US is not really interested in negotiation. Might is not only Right, but Might is also Fun. It's wonderful for television — see our boys flying off to the Gulf, you never see children blown apart.

"It's wonderful for business — war is terrific for arms manufacturers, the armaments can be tested to see how they work. See how many people can be killed down the eye of a needle. So it all becomes a matter of statistics and science. Everyone loves it, apart from the people about to be murdered." But Saddam is a monstrous tyrant who kills his own people and would not hesitate to do so again. Don't you think it desirable to get rid of Saddam? "Absolutely." Then how?

"I don't know how you get rid of Saddam. The more he is demonised, the whiter we become. If the Iraqi people were allowed to live and breathe, they would probably do it themselves. But since they are starving and desperate they come together behind the flag against this terrible threat. People forget what these bombs do: they blow people apart. The United States is about to behave equally monstrously if it bombs Iraq.

"And I remind you that Clinton directed a missile attack against Baghdad for insulting President Bush and killed a few hundred people and nobody bothered very much about that.

"Rana Kabbani has a friend who runs an art gallery in Baghdad — there are still ordinary people in Baghdad — whose sister and children were killed. President Clinton came out of church next day and was asked, how did he feel about it? And he said, 'I feel good about it. And I think the American people feel good about it.' Feeling good about what? Death. The words 'the American people' are never off a president's lips."

Despite his busyness (he has just finished the screenplay of a Karen Blixen story, directing one of his plays in Italy, and taking the role of a gangster in the film of *Mojo*) Pinter never flags in his political commitment. Last Wednesday night he gave a reading at a PEN gathering for Salman Rushdie.

Thursday found him at Aldershot magistrates' court challenging Labour's "ethical" foreign policy. He appeared as a character witness for one of five people accused of obstructing the highway outside Farnborough Arms Fair. Their protest was, Pinter told the beaks, entirely consistent with HM Government's "ethical" foreign policy, and its promise to oppose sales of British arms to countries such as Turkey.

As Pinter said in court, Robin Cook's "uplifting" statement about not permitting the sale of British arms to evil regimes had not been borne out. "The Labour Government seems to be disappointing us in a number of ways."

So now is the time for all good playwrights to abandon the aid of the party.

The Emergency Committee on Iraq will hold a peaceful encirclement of the Ministry of Defence this afternoon. All welcome.

Fresh air keeps red and white flag flying

THEATRE

Flight

Olivier Theatre

Unlike Mayakovsky, Babel and several other Russian dramatists of the 1920s and 1930s, Mikhail Bulgakov died in bed. But long before 1940, when kidney disease killed him, he was a ruined man, barely remembered even for *The White Guard*, which Stalin had liked well enough to overlook its fair-minded handling of the class enemy. *Flight* had been banned in mid-rehearsal in 1929. Though it, too, involved the civil war, and was less sympathetic to the Whites, the ideologues were determined that Bulgakov would no longer sully their stainless theatres.

Much that's sharp and more that's fun in Howard Davies's National Theatre production has actually been contributed by the adapter, Ron Hutchinson. The Reds in the original were not as nasty nor the Whites as crazy as he suggests. But I would regret the tampering more if I felt it distorted Bulgakov's spirit. Maybe the "butcher of the Crimea", General Khludov, should not be as grotesquely sinister as Alan Howard makes him. If Michael Glenny's standard translation is to be trusted, nor should he be followed around by the ghost of the dimmest of the many men he has hanged. But the result is a Bulgakovian feel in keeping with the wildly askew world of 1920.

Davies and his designer, Tim Hatley, brilliantly catch that feel, especially in the stronger first half. Refugees tumble from a vast black-panelled wall, festooned with wire, to be threatened first by Reds, next by Whites. The walls shift to give us a railway station converted into a Kafkaesque military bureaucracy, then a plundered palace in Sebastopol, and actor after actor grabs the attention: Michael Mueller as the wimpish student who falls for Abigail Cruttenden as artist Serafima, arrested as a bolshevik just for searching for her cowardly husband; Kenneth Cranham as a genially blokeish white general, Peter Blythe as his hysterical commander-in-chief (above all) Howard in silkily nihilistic mode.

The stakes are lower in the second half, which shows the Whites on their uppers in Hatley's exotically messy Constantinople. A play about the fate of Russia now involves the future of Cruttenden and Mueller's romance; and, despite some bizarre cockroach racing in Turkey and a wonderfully wild card-game in Paris, that proves less absorbing. The ending, which explains why the play is divided into "dreams", not "scenes", comes across as Bulgakov's pitifully unsuccessful attempt to appease the Stalinists.

How awful that so fine a writer came to such a pass. The revival at the National, accretions and all, is a reparation of sorts; and most of the time an ebulliently enjoyable one.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight, Thur 7.30 THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

THE ROYAL OPERA Box Office 0171 304 4000 at the Shaftesbury Theatre Box Office 0171 379 5399. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster on 0171 957 4020 Tonight 7.30 (Last Night) IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA "It left me breathless with laughter" Times Thur 6.30 (First Night) GIULIO CESARE "The most divinely beautiful sound I've heard all year" D.Tel

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

DANCE

Sadler's Wells at the Peacock Theatre (0171) 314 8800 Put Passion In Your Life! CAMPANAS FLAMENCAS "Hot blooded Spanish talents" T.O Until Sunday 8 March

"HOT-BLOODED" CAMPANAS FLAMENCAS PASSION AT THE PEACOCK! SADLER'S WELLS PEACOCK THEATRE Box Office 0171 314 8800

THEATRES

ADELPHI cc 24hrs (£1 bkg fee) 344 0055 "A show to die for" Telegraph "Dripping with style" Express 7 OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING OUTSTANDING MUSICAL PRODUCTION CHICAGO THE MUSICAL RUTHIE HENSHALL UTE LEMPER HENRY GOODMAN NIGEL PLANER Mon-Sat 8, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30 NOW BOOKING TO 30 JAN 1999

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 "You'll be dancing on air" D.Mail STEPPING OUT THE NEW MUSICAL "Tapping a rich vein of joy" Times "IT'S THE FULL MONTY WITH TAPPERS-GLITTERING" D.Mir "JUST WONDERFUL" Int.H.Trib Eves 8pm Mats Thur 3pm Sat 4pm LAST 3 WEEKS

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6000 cc 0171 957 4001/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321 WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman's new musical Opens July 1

SHOPPING AND F***ING by Mark Ravenhill LAST 4 WEEKS ENDS 14 MARCH 0171 494 5531 QUEENS THEATRE

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003 cc 344 4444 "Dame Judi is triumphant in Hare's masterpiece" D.Mail JUDI DENCH SAMANTHA BOND RONALD PICKUP JOYCE REDMAN The National Theatre Production of AMY'S VIEW a new play by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE Eves 7.30, Sat Mat 2.30

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN "Electrifying...bloodcurdling comedy...I recommend it with relish" John Peters Sun Times "The West End has found its resident Playwright" IOS Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE NOW IN ITS 5TH FANTASTIC YEAR! IAN KELSEY as Danny "A Monster Hit" D.Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm BOOKING TO THE MILLENNIUM

COMEDY THEATRE 369 1731 cc 0171 344 4444 "EDWARD FOX's Macmillan a tour de force" E.Std "CLARE HIGGINS excellent" F.T. In Hugh Whitemore's A LETTER OF RESIGNATION "One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End." Time Out Mon-Sat Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 3RD HILARIOUS YEAR THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times "Go Now!" Sunday Times Mats Thur at 3, sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0171 344 4444/0171 494 5455/0171 420 0000/0171 494 5454 DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST THE NEW HIT MUSICAL "AN ENCHANTING EVENING-GENUINELY GLORIOUS" D.Tel "A FEAST OF GOOD FUN" D.Mail New Group Rates-Now Booking Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 369 1732 THE FRONT PAGE LAST 3 WEEKS Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 3

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 434 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 9TH BREATHTAKING YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS BO 0171 494 5075 cc 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 MICHAEL WILLIAMS a John Aubrey's BRIEF LIVES Adapted & directed by Patrick Garland PERFS FROM 18 MARCH

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5588 NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR ROBERT DE NIRO DAVID PULLAN Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail Mon-Sat 8 Mats Tue 3 & Sat 4 Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990/ 494 5366 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Winner of 19 Major Awards The Royal National Theatre Production PIP MILLER ALISON FISKE JOHN BARDON JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "Thrilling...Must be seen" D.Mail "Two hours enthralling, visually stunning drama" D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5065 cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 JANE ASHER STEVEN PACEY SERENA EVANS THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE A new comedy written & directed by ALAN AYCKBOURN Red Price Previews from 26 Feb Opens 3 March 7pm Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

GIELGUD 494 5065 (No bkg fee) Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3/Sat 4 THE PETER HALL COMPANY Christopher Cazenove Kate O'Mara Simon Ward Richard Todd Madeleine Potter Barbara Murray OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBAND "GREAT AND GLORIOUS" S.Tms

Hampstead 0171 722 9301 Eves 8, Sat 3.30 & 8 George F Walker's FEATURING LORETTA HAYMARKET B.Ofcc 930 5800/344 4444 (bkg fee) MAGGIE SMITH EILEEN ATKINS JOHN STANDING in EDWARDS ALBEE'S A DELICATE BALANCE with SIAN THOMAS JAMES LAURENSON ANNIETTE CROSBIE directed by ANTHONY PAGE Tue-Sat 8pm, Wed & Sat Mats 3pm LAST 6 WEEKS

HAYMARKET BO/cc 0171 930 8800 cc 344 4444 (bkg fee) EDNA THE SPECTACLE An Icon Returns from 8 April

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO MAY 99 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/420 0200 JIM DALE RETURNS AS FAGIN OLIVER! 4th IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Some good seats avail now for weekday perfs LAST 2 WEEKS FINAL PERF 21 FEB '98

LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5030/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3321 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Prevs 21 Apr. Opens 5 May

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000(bkg fee) Grps 416 6076 TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR "Sends shivers racing down the spine" D.Telegraph Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3 Final performance 28 March 98

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (+ fee) cc 344 4444 (+ fee) BEST WEST END PLAY Time Out Award BEST NEW COMEDY Evening Standard Award BEST PLAY Critics Circle Award CLOSER by PATRICK MARBER Prevs 19 March. Opens 31 March Limited 12 Week Season

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (24hr & cc Bkg fee)/344 4444 (Bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Royal Shakespeare Company ANTONY SHER in CYRANO DE BERGERAC "The Cyrano of the decade" FT Today at 2.00 & 7.30pm FINAL DAY

LYRIC 494 5045 (24hr + Bkg fee) 420 0000 (24hr + Bkg fee) 24 Feb - 14 March ISSEY OGATA "A walk on the cutting edge of comedy" Los Angeles Times Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252/ Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000. OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 FLIGHT by Mikhail Bulgakov in a new adaptation by Ron Hutchinson. Mon 7.15 PETER PAN by JM Barrie in a new version by John Caird and Trevor Nunn. LYTTELTON Ton't, Mon 7.30 (PREVIEWS) THE LONDON CUCKOLDS by Edward Ravenscroft in a new adaptation by Tony Johnson COTTESLOE Today 2.00, & 7.15, Mon 7.15 MUTABILITIE a new play by Frank McGuinness

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 13TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted - until the interval - LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Evr Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS "...brings the audience to its feet, and rousing its approval" D.Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 LAST 3 WEEKS TO SEE BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" Int Her Trib MARTIN GUERRE BEST NEW MUSICAL LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS MUST CLOSE 28 FEB Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL "Hot from Broadway. Enough energy to electrify a city." D. Mail SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45 & 8.30, Sat 3pm & 8pm NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 1998

Queens Theatre 0171 494 5040 (24hrs)/420 0000/344 4444 SHOPPING AND F**ING By Mark Ravenhill "An historic event" Guardian Eves 8pm, Mats Thur 3pm, Sat 5pm LAST 5 WEEKS

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD 01789 / 295623/0541 541091 Today 1.30 & 7.30: RST: THE MERCHANT OF VENICE SWAN: BARTHOLOMEW FAIR TOP: GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE LONDON 0121 668 8921 Today 1.30 & 7.15: BARBICAN: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING PIT: EVERYMAN YOUNG VIC: HENRY VIII

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 IAN RICHARDSON "TOUR DE FARCE" D.Tel GRAHAM CROWDEN "EXPLOSIVELY FUNNY" Metro THE MAGISTRATE by Arthur Wing Pinero Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tbs 2.45, Sat 5 & 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 46th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 439 5588 "BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun "BUDDY" "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 SUNDAYS 4.00pm Mats ½ Price ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 9th KNOCKOUT YEAR! Now booking 'till the year 2000

VAUDEVILLE LINE 0171 836 9987 cc 0171 344 4444 (24hrs) THE RIGHT SIZE EXTENDED 1 WEEK TO 21 FEB "The best show in town" D.Mil Eves 7.30 Sat Mat 4.00 FROM 23 FEB FOR 20 PERFS MY LIFE WITH KENNETH WILLIAMS Performed by David Benson BEST AVAILABLE SEATS FROM £12.50

VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE 0171 834 1317 With Bkg Fee - 420 0000, 344 4444 Eves Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri & Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm GIRLS NIGHT OUT Opens Feb 26th - for a limited season "Loads of laughs at this hilarious hen party"

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317 Previews 9 May - Opens 19 May SWEET CHARITY

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 BEST COMEDY Evg Standard Awards BEST COMEDY Laurence Olivier Awards "ART" ROGER ALLAM RICK FORD JACK DEE A new play by Yasmina Reza Transl by Christopher Hampton Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5

298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 TIMES A YEAR. 152,000 GO TO THE THEATRE ONCE EVERY 2/3 MONTHS.

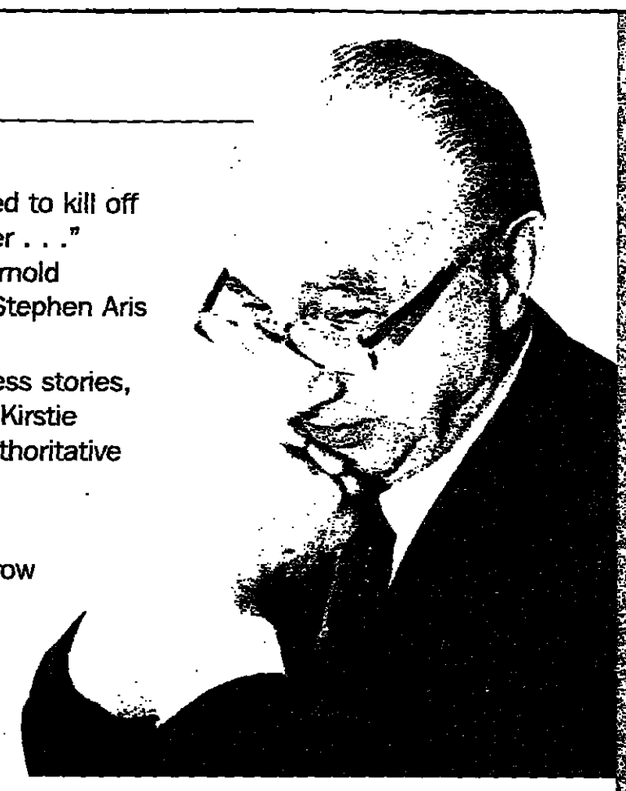
To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call the entertainments team on 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313.

All major credit cards accepted

صكة من الاصل

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BUSINESS



THE BATTLES OF ARNOLD
"Weinstock had had enough. He decided to kill off Plessey once and for all by taking it over . . ."
Exclusive pre-publication extract from Arnold Weinstock and the Making of GEC, by Stephen Aris

PLUS

- Every week we give you the big business stories, and columnists John Jay, David Smith, Kirstie Hamilton and Irwin Stelzer bring you authoritative analysis
- Our Enterprise Network service gives medium-sized firms the know-how to grow
- Sharewatch gives you the top tips
- The Prufrock diary keeps you tuned in to the latest buzz



BRAINPOWER

GET PHYSICAL
Discover how to think yourself fit with our exclusive FREE BrainPower series



NEWS REVIEW

A QUESTION OF TASTE
"Like all art auction stories, it involves greed, need, high style and higher ostentation . . ."
Robert Lacey penetrates the angry feud behind next week's sale of the belongings of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor



SPORT

WIN A FERRARI
Start playing Fantasy Formula One tomorrow. Pick your dream combination of drivers and constructors for your chance to win a dream car



STYLE

ALL IS REVEALED
AA Gill's guide to resultwear: clothes with pulling power

PLUS News, Books, Travel, Culture, Money, The Funday Times and Appointments. The 11 section Sunday Times, Britain's biggest-selling quality newspaper

MAGAZINE

TIGER BRIGHT
Disappearing breed: intimate images of India's fiercest playful pussycats. Plus Jilly's speech





I RECOGNISE THAT FACE . . .
Nobody was more shocked to see Olivia Williams kissing Kevin Costner in his latest movie that Zoe Heller. They went to the same primary school. Zoe decided to investigate . . .

هكذا من الاصل

Too Ruud to be one of the lads

Robert Crampton is not surprised that Chelsea has kicked Gullit out

The fact and manner of Ruud Gullit's departure from Chelsea leaves me unsurprised and moderately smug. Late last year, I interviewed him for *The Times Saturday Magazine*. I had expected charm. What I got was insufferability. By turns arrogant, vain, vacuous, dismissive and humourless, Ruud lived down to his own forename. I wrote as much.

Despite what several abusive letter writers subsequently said, I went to meet Gullit prepared to like him. Like these complainers, I knew Gullit only through the exceptionally favourable — some would say hagiographic — press that he had received since arriving in West London in 1995.

Few journalists relish the unpopularity that being critical of celebrities brings from their fans — particularly, in Gullit's case, the legions of female fans turned on to the national game by his undeniable good looks. I warned a colleague, who is a Chelsea supporter, that he would hate me when he read what I thought of the man I assumed to be his hero. But he told me that, while he remained wildly appreciative of Gullit's talent as a player, he knew a friend of a friend who worked at Stamford Bridge in a junior capacity, and had, along with many others, been snubbed by the great man. "Don't worry, everyone there thinks Gullit's a . . . " and then he used a word more suited to the dressing room of a football team than the pages of this newspaper.

I don't think I need have worried at all. Whatever the *ins and outs* of his leaving, what is certain is that a dislike of Gullit was shared by many other fans and employees of the club, including some players. The word that keeps coming up is arrogant.

Peter Osgood, the former 1970s striker and a club legend, said on hearing the news of Gullit's departure: "I don't think he was interested in managing this club. He was an arrogant man." Football writers have been alluding to Gullit's "lofty style", his "ruthless streak", his "hard side". The first thing Gianluca Vialli — always more popular with Chelsea fans than Gullit — did on replacing Gullit was stress his own man-of-the-people credentials. "I consider myself one of the lads," he said. Admirers emphasise Vialli's generous, practical-joking, fag-smoking geniality.

What Vialli has learnt — and Gullit has not — is that in British football, arrogance is about the worst charge that can be levelled at you. It seems far less forgiveable than, say, beating your wife, as Paul Gascoigne discovered when Glenn Hoddle refused to drop him, despite his having done just that. The reason Chris Sutton will never play for England is that he was considered arrogant in refusing to turn out for the B side.

Part of the reason even opposing fans admire Alan Shearer is that, despite being one of the best forwards in Europe, he remains relentlessly grateful to his less talented team-mates. Part of the reason that Alex Ferguson is so well-liked within the confines of Old Trafford is that he has time for the tea lady and the youth team.

Despite the million-pound salaries, the executive suites, the flotations on the stock market, a collective, leg-pulling culture remains highly prized in communal baths up and down the country. When footballers parrot the cliché about "doing it for the lads", they are not being falsely modest. They mean it.

That Ruud Gullit never understood this culture is hardly surprising. In his day, he was one of the best players in the world, capable of destroying the opposition single-footedly. His ability went to his head. All great athletes and performers require abundant self-confidence, even self-centredness. Garry Kasparov, whose colossal ability transmits itself almost as mental heroism, is remorselessly bullish. Prince Naseem Hamed has the cockiness of youth, a rare talent and a career as yet unmarked by defeat.

In football arrogance is worse than wife-beating

But Gullit's great gift seems to have led him into petulance rather than self-possession. At Feyenoord, PSV Eindhoven and AC Milan, he got what he wanted, or he left. With Holland, when he had lobbied to have Johann Cruyff imposed as manager of the national team just before the 1994 World Cup, and failed, he walked away. This attitude extended into every aspect of his life.

If all the other guys around him had designer suits, then Ruud would have his own designer label, imaginatively called "Ruud". If they had stunning blondes on their arms, he would have to have a stunning 19-year-old blonde who happened to be Johann Cruyff's niece on his arm. If they earned a million quid, he'd ask for £2 million and advertise pizzas to get a bit more. When he got fed up with an interviewer not feeding him soft questions to blast into the net, he'd turn sarcastic and turf them out of the room.

As a manager, Gullit used his own status as a world-class player to attract other world class players — some of them, one must assume, with world-class egos to match Gullit's own. They did not, some of them, take kindly to being dropped. Then he made the mistake of trying to play chicken with the chairman, and Chelsea's Ken Bates — another man to whom the word arrogant is often appended — plays for keeps.

NATURE NOTES

Spectacled Owl
(Mowlam owlam)

Introduced in a futile attempt to keep in check pestilential vermin. A by-word for wisdom, it can also be regarded by locals as a creature of ill-omen



Flight pattern:



No cure for a thin skin

Poor Clare Short and Harriet Harman – but what on earth did they expect?

Simon Jenkins

All political careers end in failure. So said the late Enoch Powell. Some end in a bang, some in a whimper, but the picture is always the same. An exhausted ego, its illusions broken, its ambition dead, stumbles across the veld to a lonely grave.

Powell was wrong. Political lives end not in failure but in defeat, which is quite different. Most politicians depart only when beaten on the field of battle, usually in hand-to-hand combat with supposed friends. Witness Edward Heath, Nigel Lawson, Geoffrey Howe, Margaret Thatcher, Michael Heseltine, John Major and Kenneth Clarke. The few who resign when "in front", like Harold Wilson, are assumed to have devious motives. We expect our leaders to behave as in the animal kingdom, ruling until defeated in some primeval trial of strength. That does not make them failures, just victims of a messy retirement scheme.

The Labour Government has been in office nine months and already careers are faltering and blood is oozing from beneath Downing Street's doors. Yesterday Harriet Harman and Clare Short will have looked at their newspapers and choked. The former was the subject of an *Express* lead story, composed entirely of anonymous quotes, declaring that "ministers have lost confidence in her" and that she was to be sacked. The story was devoid of any named source, just a parade of ministers, colleagues, allies and intransitive verbs. But then, as Alan Clark observed, there is nothing that boosts political morale like the imminent execution of a senior colleague.

Meanwhile, Clare Short, was feeling the recoil of her own mouth-shooting. Previews of a documentary on BBC2 tonight have her kicking off her shoes and letting down her hair in a fly-on-the-wall performance. She complains yet again of the "dark forces" who are out to get her. They are nameless "vultures", reptilian journalists and, most ghoulish of all, Cabinet colleagues. "It's extraordinary," she says on screen, "that people on your own side would do such things . . . I am amazed at how many vultures there are out there trying to pick my eyes out."

A spokesman was of course on hand, identifying himself as not missing a single Cabinet meeting (dare we guess Alastair Campbell?), and declaring that Tony Blair "likes Clare Short, respects Clare Short and thinks she is a good Cabinet minister". Under the Tories, words from such a source meant a black spot under the dinner plate and a revolver waiting in the loo. *The Times* reacted by reporting that "some of Ms Short's ministerial colleagues were less charitable, accusing her of not learning from past mistakes". Other darts were also fired from behind the coward's charter of anonymity, doubting whether Ms Short would survive a forthcoming reshuffle. Another spokesman duly declared that the documentary "reminded people why we all love Clare". If this is love, then Valentine's Day should be moved to February 29.

I wonder if these were the same spokesmen who had briefed *The Express*. Or perhaps they were the spokesmen who assured us yesterday that "Harriet Harman is doing a difficult job and doing it well". With what delicious sadism must those words have been chosen. But who can tell? This is a miasma of semi-non-attribution, through which wanders a chanting fraternity of "spokesmen". They neither speak nor are named as men. In Opposition they brilliantly poisoned the well of government. In power . . . I suppose old habits die hard.

A thin skin is the most debilitating of career faults. No training on earth seems able to cure it. It has been the downfall of tycoons, writers, statesmen and scholars alike. It was the undoing of John Major, breeding paranoia and short-sightedness in even the mildest of breasts. You come out of a meeting and wonder why so-and-so gave you that look, did not answer that question, was speaking so warmly to that foe. You lie awake at night, tossing over who is an ally, who an enemy. Every thought is troubled by ghosts. Behind every eye-contact is a nasty article, rude gossip, a dinner missed, a grant refused. You may leaf through memoirs, consult gurus, debrief the great and good, but none has a remedy for thinness of skin.

Narcissus is the demon tempter of the vulnerable. A golden mirror is held aloft by that nice television producer, that kindly profile-writer, that plausible young reporter. The lights seem so bright to those long starved of power. Already Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Mo Mowlam and Clare Short have admitted cameras to their offices to witness to their exercise of power. Such vanity never pays a dividend. Mr Brown's self-exposure enraged those whose exclusion from his inner circle was vividly captured on screen. What might have seemed a modest public relations exercise proved a devastating insight into who is in and who out in the modern Treasury. As for Mr Cook's act of self-revelation, it invited the press to go the whole hog.

Ms Short's excuse for tonight's political striptease is her inexperience. This will not do. Alone in Europe, British parliamentarians demand a closed shop on ministerial appointments. There are probably a hundred people more qualified than Ms Short to be in charge of Britain's aid policy. The value she brings to the job is supposedly her political nous, her feel for Parliament, her ability to win departmental battles with her Cabinet friends. For her to protest innocence on this score leaves us asking if this is not another closed shop ripe for smashing. Ms Short depicts herself as a latter-day Phineas Finn, given a ministry by his friends in the club for want of a country house in season.

Public figures have two private lives, not one. The first is domestic, the second is the private dimension of their public life. Any government is held together by a web of loyalty, in which confidences are respected and disputes masked by collective responsibility. Leak the conflicts of a Cabinet, and power retreats to a cabal. Leak the cabal and power retreats farther, to those favourites in whom the ruler feels he can confide. Dynastic rulers were not fools. They knew on whom they could rely to keep a secret. The alternative to cabal government is a general loyalty among colleagues, ruthlessly enforced. The media must test this loyalty to destruction. Ministers should surely not abet them. Government needs to observe *omerta*.

The public loves frankness in the famous, but it votes out governments that are divided and acrimonious. As Mr Brown found last month with his "unauthorised" memoir, revealing the private realm of public life pollutes personal relations and leaves the public wondering how such bitter enemies can run the country. Once admitted behind the arras, the media can find no end of mischief. Poor Ms Short, with her candour, vanity and thin skin, should never have had cameras in her office. It was an accident on its way to happen. She protests that "Downing Street" approved her film. That should have been warning enough. These are the same dark forces as now profess to love and admire her. Beware government spokesmen bearing love.

We are witnessing an ominous moment. This week has seen the re-emergence of that blackest of political arts, personnel management by "anonymous derogatory quote". Yesterday's *Express* front page was a classic of the genre. In America such quotes are considered so cowardly, and so open to corruption and fabrication, as to be banned from most respectable newspapers. Anonymous quotes, especially from Downing Street, are a means of distancing a Prime Minister from the undermining and possible removal of an inconvenient minister. They also enable a rival source to imply that the Prime Minister is seeking that goal. The media is thus manipulated as executioner, a role I fear it is often flattered to perform without due scepticism.

This is political terrorism. The source is obscure and the grammar opaque. "It is understood in Westminster . . . It is said in Downing Street . . . Close ministerial aides claim . . ." Thus did the politburo knock at the night-time door. Ministers of a sensitive nature cannot work in such heat. Perhaps they should leave the kitchen. But it is a kitchen into which they were welcomed only nine months ago. This weekend two women are swinging in the wind, waiting for some kind soul to cut them down.

Tongue tied in love knots

Will you be my . . . um . . ? asks **Philip Delves Broughton**

Purgatory will be recreated in Britain's restaurants this evening. Couples will gaze at each other across a cheap candle and limp carnation, shift uneasily from buttock to buttock, then return to their *noisettes d'Aphrodite* in silence, ground down by hollow romance.

The hysteria of chocolates, flowers and pink balloons which now herald Valentine's Day cannot hide the fact that the language of romance trips off the British tongue with about the same fluency as Inuktitut. While the rest of the world is singing under balconies, flying to the moon and sitting on rainbows, the British man still tends to say "dammit, I love you" as though it were an admission of haemorrhoids.

Maybe the more inarticulate we are, the more important Valentine's Day becomes to us. For one day, in the gloom of late winter, the timid lover can send surreptitious declarations of love, surprise bouquets and little teddy bears with T-shirts saying "be mine". Valentine's Day is a holy day for all those who see a declaration of love as some sort of apology.

What kind of homunculus, after all, waits for Hallmark cards and the nation's florists to give the nod before he tells a girl he loves her? It is like being too scared to kiss unless Frank Sinatra is on the radio.

Valentine's Day offers shelter to the awkward romantic. Even if rebuffed, he or she can always say their card was meant only as a joke. February 14 provides convenient quotation marks to expressions of love. Shakespeare found his quotation marks by setting his most romantic plays abroad. *Romeo and Juliet* would have lacked something if it had been called *Roger and Julie*. Heathcliff always seemed, too much of a brooding Latino, even Mr Darcy had a French-sounding name.

The British interest in heavy-breathing romance is largely voyeuristic. Shirley Valentine's dream of love in the Greek islands turns sour because the wine and roses romantic male turns out to be a cad. Love spoken of too often and too loudly soon possesses all the allure of Aristotle Onassis's whale foreskin-covered bar stools.

"Darling" is how the insincere fashion and theatrical crowds address each other, "Love you" is how they say goodbye. The language of love has turned brittle and hollow and is wrenched in irony.

In *Brief Encounter*, a fine example of lower lip-chewing love, there were no roses and bandoliers, just brown windsor soup and train stations. No one could be in any doubt, though, that this was the real thing.

In France, Valentine's Day is not just an occasion for cooing between lovers, but for declarations of love from the whole family. Children send cards to their grandparents, parents to their cousins. The day celebrates a broad notion of love, not just the narrow, fickle sort represented in heart-shaped truffles.

Were it not for the carryings-on of the Foreign Secretary, the Government might be tempted to hijack it as the People's Valentine's Day. There could be government-run couplings in Soho private members' clubs followed by dinners in Terence Conran restaurants and break-ups after rows about the Millennium Dome.

One last thought for all those who this evening will look into each other's eyes and see only the gutterings of an embarrassed romance: today is also our National Impotence Day.

Hurd at work

THE delicate job of selling Egypt to tourists has gone to a golden-tongued advocate: Lord Hurd of Westwell who, as Foreign Secretary, was masterful at selling the unsellable. He is to lead a delegation of senior Western statesmen to Luxor and Cairo as a guest of the Egyptian Prime Minister, who hopes Hurd will reassure the world that holidaymakers should head down the Nile. Tempted by a little winter sun — and deserted tourist sites in the Valley of the Kings — Hurd, respected locally and now deputy chairman at NatWest Markets, hastily rearranged his timetable. He sets off for Egypt on Monday, with Robert Oakley, the former terrorism expert at the US State Department, and a clutch of Euro-swells.



Nile file: Hurd, the Sphinx

Should Hurd find the trip particularly peaceful and then say so, he could have a run-in with his old friends at the FO. It advises: "Since the Luxor incident extremists have threatened further attacks against tourists: these threats should be taken seriously. Visitors are advised to exercise great caution."

Hurd assures me that he has not become a soft touch. "We have been asked to give an objective view of how security measures are working. I emphasise 'objective'. Then we will put something on paper for the Prime Minister."



● *ONCE war correspondents were sent into battle with a gas mask and a bottle of Scotch: now the BBC has sent John Simpson on a nuclear biochemical weapons training course in Hampshire. "I was taught how to deal with a nerve gas attack," he tells me. "You stab yourself in the thigh with a needle to counteract the effect. If you haven't been attacked by nerve gas, the shot will kill you. The only way to tell is if your pupils become pinpricks, so you have to carry a compact mirror."*

Whip hand

THAT sensitive balance between aristocrats and the new landed gentry (rock stars) has been unsettled in Sussex. Charles Moore, the Old Etonian Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, has taken up hunting again just as others are moving into gentler pursuits. He was out galloping with the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Hunt when across Sir Paul and Lady McCartney — mounted on two splendid Appaloosa ponies — started shouting at the hunt to get off their land. "They're always telling us to b*** off," says my woman with the whip, close to the McCartneys' picturesque 160-acre animal shrine near Rye. "She's ghastly and shouts but he was perfectly nice and told us that he hoped we realised that we are not allowed on his land."

● *GRIEVING for the loss of Ruud Gullit is spreading among Chelsea fans, particularly of the thigh-admiring variety. The Nurses Association has sent protests to Ken Bates, the club chairman.*

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

Private views

AESTHETIC sensibilities have been offended at Birkbeck College,



Lady in red: Tessa Blackstone

London, over the appearance of this bright portrait of their former Master, Baroness Blackstone, now Education Minister. Commissioned to mark her ten years as Master, it was unveiled to startled college worthies. "When I first saw the portrait I was dismayed at displaying it with our beautiful old paintings," says the new Master, Tim O'Shea. The Master may have reconciled himself to this garish vision but colleagues are determined to remove it. "Its just too red, like her politics," says one. Roger Scruton, formerly Birkbeck's Professor of Aesthetics, believes the canvas imitates life. "The college portraits are as dull as the people portrayed. Tessa's portrait could be as lively and offensive as she is."

● *NOT content with the fortune he has amassed shearing the likes of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Kate Moss, Nicky Clarke is to sell his trade secrets to Transworld. His advance? £120,000 — not bad for a collection of snipping tips.*

French fancy

UNFAZED by John Prescott's baptism at the Brits, Chris Smith has befriended his own anarchist rock group, Urusei Yatsura, self-styled "underground revolutionaries with links to organised crime", found the Culture Secretary tapping his foot to its wall of noise at a recent concert in Cannes. Ignoring nervy advisers, Smith ventured backstage to congratulate the group. "I very much enjoyed it," he tells me. "I have very catholic tastes."



IF THE Olympic ideal is to bring together people from different patches then the Diary must award gold to the Princess Royal (an SW1 kind of girl) and Tony Banks (more an NE37 sort of bloke). The unlikely couple have been "joined at the hip" at the Nagano Winter Games, according to observers. The friendship between the Princess and our rather republican — but really delightful — Sports Minister began to swing at a dinner for the British Olympic Association, of which the Princess is President. Determined not to offend his hosts, Banks slipped on a fetching kimono. The Princess was, I am told, thoroughly amused by the spectacle. As the sake flowed, Banks lost his social awkwardness and struck up a jolly conversation. Thankfully, he avoided anguished talk about changes at his beloved Chelsea FC, of which he has been fully appraised while in Japan. The dinner was not the only bright spot: he visited a museum illustrating the history of the chestnut. But sadly Britain's triumph in the absorbing sport of curling was not played out before our Sports Minister. Instead he was to be found cheering the indoor speed-skating stars of Bavaria. After No 10's prudish edict banning more than one minister attending any World Cup match, our Tony should enjoy the foreign sporting follies while he can.

هكذا من الاصل

CALL FOR THE DOCTOR

Owen should lead the anti-EMU campaign

A referendum on the single currency may be some five years away, but now is not too early for the "no" campaign to marshal its forces. During the rest of this Parliament, government supporters of EMU, with the EU itself, will be trying to create a momentum for a "yes" vote so that, when the time comes, it will seem inevitable. The "no" campaign must counter their arguments.

To that end, the entry of David Owen into the fray is a boon. True, the former Foreign Secretary is irascible, anti-collegiate and has a history of splitting whatever party he joins. But his advantages to a "no" campaign far outweigh any personal flaws.

Lord Owen has the merit of being accepted as a pro-European. If the "no" campaign is to have a chance of success, it must not be led by people who are viscerally anti-Europe. It must capture the middle ground of voters who are cosmopolitan, well-disposed to the EU but who see the single currency as an undesirable economic straitjacket. Lord Owen, who resigned from the Labour Party because it was not pro-European enough, is the man to make that case.

He is also the only political figure of any standing in this country who can claim to be above party. Having been a member of three parties and shown some enthusiasm for the fourth, he is now genuinely non-partisan. If the "no" camp is seen as an offshoot of the Conservative Party it will repel supporters. A referendum will be held in the next Parliament only if Labour has won a second election. The Tories, therefore, are likely to be as unpopular then as now.

Lord Owen would be able to escape any charges of political opportunism. The Tories would have much to gain were Tony Blair to be defeated in a referendum shortly after an election victory. But a non-partisan figure would be disinterested in the referendum's effects on party politics.

He could also help to ensure that the referendum campaign cut properly across party lines. At the moment, most of the vociferous critics of monetary union come either from the Right of the Conservative Party or the Left of the Labour Party. But many centrists, who are otherwise sympathetic to Mr Blair's project, have their reservations about the single currency. At the moment, they are reluctant to join bedfellows who can sometimes seem xenophobic. The presence of Lord Owen, a moderate, intelligent, pro-European figure, could detach them from their broader loyalties, particularly if the referendum battle were not seen as a partisan virility test which either Labour or the Conservatives had to win.

As a former Foreign Secretary and an EU negotiator in Bosnia, Lord Owen has great authority. Recently he argued, in an article for *The Economist*, that a single currency would inevitably lead to a single foreign policy. Any successful "no" campaign will have to encourage people to think through the broader consequences of joining EMU.

Lord Owen's experience would also help him to join forces with like-minded campaigners in other member states, such as the 155 German economists who are now arguing for a delay. Most British EMU-sceptics are treated with suspicion on the Continent, for they are assumed to be antipathetic to the whole institution. Lord Owen, exceptionally, is not.

The "no" campaign, if it is to win hearts and minds, must seem modern rather than reactionary, internationalist rather than xenophobic, and independent rather than partisan. David Owen's credentials are impeccable. He should be persuaded to lead it.

A MATTER OF JUDGMENT

An exceptional case should not set a sweeping precedent

The swift departure of Mr Justice Harman has not been the cause of much regret in the legal profession. The extraordinary case of *Goose v Wilson Sandford* clearly deserves the criticism that it has created. This legal saga started in 1987 and, as a result of the Court of Appeal's action yesterday, has now been sent for retrial. Mr Justice Harman took 20 months to reach a decision and then did so without the assistance of his original trial notes which he had misplaced in the interim period. It is difficult to disagree with Lord Justice Gibson's blunt assertion that such conduct "weakens public confidence" in the entire judicial process and is therefore "ultimately subversive" to the rule of law.

The Court of Appeal was thus correct to be forthright and Mr Justice Harman's prompt resignation was equally appropriate. There will be some who hope that this episode will provide the basis for a stronger precedent. For the past 15 years, the evolution of a stronger and more diverse notion of judicial review has made the distinction between law and politics less distinctive. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights will take that process further. As a result, it can be expected that the relative anonymity that once went with the wig will become increasingly unsustainable.

This will lead to pressure from many quarters for the judiciary to be "modernised": it will be argued that technical competence alone is an insufficient qualification for office in the modern era. Those who make what some would consider insensitive remarks from the Bench would soon be held to account — this process of selective quotation is already evident. An insufficiently precise knowledge of Premiership football and pop charts may also be taken as evidence that a judge is "out of touch" and irrelevant. The terraces and television studios could be populated by the legal profession in pursuit of their populist credentials.

This would be an entirely lamentable development. The principle of judicial independence is central to our constitutional democracy. In rare cases of striking incompetence then action must certainly be taken. Even then, resignation as a result of peer pressure is to be preferred to political interference. Nor should there be an attempt to preordain legal opinion through the application of informal quotas — by age, ethnicity, or gender — in the appointment of the judiciary. It is more important to understand the law than appreciate contemporary culture. Statutes will stand the test of time rather better than the Spice Girls.

The twin perils of political appointment and political correctness must be avoided. This will be increasingly difficult. It was unfortunate that the Lord Chancellor could not be content with accepting Mr Justice Harman's resignation but felt obliged to stress his agreement with the Court of Appeal. This allowed the, probably inaccurate but damaging implication of some collusion. It might be better if future promotions were not the sole property of the Lord Chancellor but a committee of senior judges.

There is an essential counterpart to the continued respect for judicial independence — that is the exercise of self-restraint in the new powers that Parliament will shortly delegate. Judges should have no fear in attacking a clear abuse of power. They should avoid rewriting the law in a fashion that strikes them as rational. If the Bench and the ballot box blur, it will be impossible to avoid the politicisation of the judiciary. That would be a loss of greater significance than the departure of Mr Justice Harman.

FOR EVER AND EVER

The traditional version will last while English is spoken



The Lord's Prayer is the most familiar incantation in English. Not one in ten citizens of the United Kingdom goes to a Christian church on Sunday. But more than eight in ten can recite the Lord's Prayer, which they learnt at school and at their parents' knees. The best-known phrases in English were first published in Cranmer's Prayer Book of 1549 at the formation of the Church of England. But their roots run far deeper than that.

So the decision by the General Synod to publish a version of the Lord's Prayer in modern English is as shocking to many as the facelift of a familiar old friend. The new version retains the petition "hallowed be *your* name". But for many, hallowed words themselves are being thrown out for a less numinous version.

These words have changed continually down the ages. The immediate predecessor to Cranmer's version prays: "Thy will be fulfilled in earth as in heaven." And earlier translations ask for our "guilts" to be forgiven. Some reasons for change are better than others. Change for the sake of change would confirm the stereotype of trendy churchmanship. There is more weight in change in order to keep up with language that has moved on since Cranmer.

"Hallowed" is not a word in everyday use, and some may misconstrue "trespass" as the modern offence of entering unlawfully upon someone else's land rather than its original meaning of a general sin, which is five centuries older. But "thee" and "thou" language and "which" for "who" are trivial stumbling-blocks. Most manage to jump them for Shakespeare.

The wish for a common single version of the Lord's Prayer for use throughout the English-speaking world is ecumenical. But even in the United Kingdom, a quarter of those who know the Lord's Prayer know it only in a modern version. The best reason for change is that the new version is closer to the original, which was spoken in a dialect of Aramaic and written down a generation later in the Greek of the marketplace.

For those who care about content as well as form, the traditional version has ambiguities. Modern theology interprets "daily bread" not as the food from the supermarket that we eat every day, but the bread of the Messianic banquet. The prayer is for the coming of the Lord. "Lead us not into temptation" is a Puritan anachronism and implies that God rather than Satan is a tempter. The modern version runs "Save us from the time of trial". This renders the first-century petition to be delivered from the testing at the end of time, and from apostasy or loss of faith in that age of persecution.

The decision to publish the new version alongside the traditional version in service books to be introduced to all churches by 2001 is an endearingly typical Anglican compromise. It will do nothing to standardise the Babel of versions when the congregation joins in the Lord's Prayer. But at least the modern version is nearer to the original. And for traditionalists, Cranmer's words (slightly modified) will rumble down the centuries as long as English lasts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

On the brink in the Middle East

From Mr Andrew Robathan, MP for Blaby (Conservative)

Sir, Your report, "Iraqi generals 'ready to topple Saddam ...'" (February 7), adds weight to the need to drive a wedge between Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people. My own experience of dealing with Iraqi prisoners whilst in the Army during the Gulf War was that the vast majority had no love of the regime, but were in great fear of it and wanted us to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Indeed we let them down by not so doing. Currently, the talk is of atrocities that he inflicts on his own people, so it does seem unfortunate to add to their woes by bombing them.

Whilst not an instant solution, one step could be for the UN to indict Saddam Hussein for war crimes. There are sufficient grounds, including shooting Iranian prisoners, torture of British prisoners, waging war on Kuwait and Iran and using nerve gas against the Kurds in Iraq.

It is but one step, but it might go some way to persuading the Iraqi people that we really do have no quarrel with them, only with Saddam Hussein.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROBATHAN,
House of Commons.
February 12.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, To some of us who remember the year 1938 the situation in Iraq must seem eerily familiar, but the danger today is graver, more far-reaching and more imminent than it was then because biological weapons are so easily manufactured and delivered. The real issue is how to avoid it, with or if necessary without the United Nations.

I can think of no provision of international law, no precept of morality, no consideration of policy and no application of common sense which deprives us of the right to take whatever measures are judged to be necessary for our security, which is intimately involved with the proliferation of terrible weapons of mass destruction.

In 1940 it was Britain which led the world to an ultimate pacification. Today it is the United States which does so and it is both our duty and our interest to support them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS
(Secretary-General,
Council of Europe, 1964-69),
In Di Pradon 19,
6921-Vico Morcote, Switzerland.
February 12.

From Professor Emerius Adrian Hastings

Sir, We are in great danger of seeing a rerun of the Suez fiasco with almost all the same ingredients: an attack by two Western powers disavowed by the international community in general: a case for doing so which appears woefully unconvincing and produces a storm of protest; the unifying of the Middle East (bar Israel) in opposition; an ill-formulated and almost unrealisable objective; a termination deeply discrediting those responsible but actually enhancing the status of Nasser in 1956, Saddam Hussein today.

Does Tony Blair really want to cast himself in the role of another Tony Eden?

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
Department of Theology and
Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
February 10.

From Mr Colin Stamp

Sir, During Question Time in the House of Commons on February 11, and in answer to a most pertinent question from Tony Benn, the Prime Minister categorically denied that there is any question of Great Britain simply following the lead of Washington in preparing for military action against Iraq.

If this is the case, are we to believe that if Washington were not preparing for the use of force then our Armed Forces would be?

Yours sincerely,
COLIN STAMP,
3 Shenstone Close,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3PS.
February 11.

From Mr R. W. Leon

Sir, Our Prime Minister today showed clearly that we are on a collision course with Saddam Hussein. There will be much loss of life if Mr Blair means what he says. The shortest way to win will be to remove all electric power from Iraq, and in the long run this will save more lives. Precision bombs can destroy the power stations, and Saddam cannot control his country without electric power.

Factories cease production, electric pumps no longer fill vehicles with petrol and all road transport comes to a halt. TV sets do not work and Saddam cannot communicate with his people. Political opposition can operate without police control.

Electricity is the lifeblood of modern society. The mere threat will have an effect on negotiations.

Yours truly,
R. W. LEON,
La Grand Maraie,
18 Park Close, Glen Vine,
Douglas, Isle of Man IM4 4HB.
February 11.

Enoch Powell's early poetic mentor

From Dr Archie Burnett

Sir, I write with reference to your front-page story and letter (February 10) about Enoch Powell's early homosexual relationship, as confessed by Powell to Canon Eric James. In particular, as the editor of the recently published Oxford edition of *The Poems of A. E. Housman*, I am concerned with the question of Housman's influence on Powell.

In *The Independent Magazine* (January 27, 1990), Enoch Powell published a reminiscence of Housman at Cambridge. He recalled in January 1932 as a young man of 19 "traversing with leaden heart the cloisters of Nevile's Court, Trinity College", catching sight of Housman, who was 72, and thinking, "If he ... endured unflinchingly all those punishing years, so, surely, can I." Powell quoted *A Shropshire Lad*, LI, where the speaker, "brooding on ... heavy ill", learns to be "manful like the man of stone".

A "leaden heart" does not sound like ordinary examination nerves (Powell was in Cambridge to sit the examination for the Chancellor's Classical Medal), any more than "all those punishing years" sounds like the life Housman enjoyed as Professor of Latin at Cambridge (1911-36).

It was easy for Powell in 1990 to have known of Housman's homosexuality — there were two major biographies by then — and to have sensed that in 1932 he shared something of Housman's "heavy ill".

In Powell's Housmanesque poem, quoted in your report, the lines

And since our parting is decreed
By laws we cannot break,

contain a significant parallel to Housman's *Last Poems* XII, 23-24:

Keep we must, if keep we can,
These foreign laws of God and man.

It should be made clear, however, that Housman never in his lifetime spoke out on sexual matters, but maintained the most formidable reserve: it is unthinkable that he tried to influence Powell or anyone else. In his poetry, even in the poetry published posthumously, Housman's intensity is partly the result of that reserve.

Housman's influence on Powell was intellectual and moral: Powell more than once affirmed that he admired his courage in speaking out on intellectual matters irrespective of what others thought. Whether Powell in 1932 could have sensed anything of Housman's sexuality is extremely doubtful.

The projection in 1990 of his own youthful predicament on to Housman is beyond question, however; and on that ground, and on the evidence of Powell's poetry and, above all, of his confession, Canon James's account of Powell's early relationship is to be believed.

Yours sincerely,
ARCHIE BURNETT,
Oxford Brookes University,
School of Humanities,
Gipsy Lane Campus,
Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.
February 10.

Sorry legacy of the 'rivers of blood'

From Mr Navin Raina

Sir, You refer in today's leading article to Enoch Powell's infamous 1968 "rivers of blood" speech as a "tactical error" [see also letters, February 12]. For members of the ethnic minorities during that time, its effect was far greater than that.

Being a foreigner, settling into a new and often harsh environment, is difficult enough. But having a senior politician questioning your place in the country, which essentially is what the man did, breeds a type of fear and insecurity that is difficult to quantify.

You also state that the country should be "grateful" for the career of Mr Powell. The immigrant community plays a substantial role in British society, in sport, the arts and the professions. Such people do not feel grateful to the man who caused them or their parents to feel such insecurity.

Yours sincerely,
NAVIN RAINA,
48 West Avenue,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5BY.
February 9.

From Dr Tim Lattimer

Sir, Enoch Powell's most lasting legacy is surely the 1968 Race Relations Act and the 1971 Immigration Act that were born from the climate of racial paranoia he helped create. Although the original rationale behind this legislation has since been discredited, the legislation is still with us, now justified by tenuous arguments about protecting race relations and preventing unemployment.

In recent years we have seen the 1971 Act used to detain increasing numbers of asylum-seekers in conditions which are in some ways worse than those of criminals: detainees have no automatic right to bail, are often given no reason for their detention, and they are given no indication when they will be released.

Last Saturday I visited a boy in a young offender institution who has spent nearly two years behind bars for breaking his admission conditions by going on a short holiday to Holland. He was 15 at the time. If he had committed even a serious crime he would probably be free by now.

He, along with many others, is hoping that the Government's promised review of asylum policy will end this abuse of an Act that was itself deeply flawed.

Yours faithfully,
TIM LATTIMER,
24 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LB.
February 10.

Ovid in translation

From Professor Emeritus H. H. Huxley

Sir, Michael Cullis (letter, February 6) wonders if some enterprising publisher could be persuaded to reissue Arthur Golding's 14-syllable line translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

As recently as 1965 the Macmillan company of New York published an edition, with introduction and notes by John Frederick Nims.

Incidentally, a 1929 footnote to Ezra Pound's *Notes on Elizabethan Classicists* reads: "His *Metamorphoses* form *possibly* (my italics) the most beautiful book in our language." The restrictive adverb was dropped in 1934.

Yours sincerely,
H. H. HUXLEY,
12 Derwent Close,
Cambridge CB1 4DZ.

From Mr Jon Wynne-Tyson

Sir, It is my intention that the 1961 reprint of Arthur Golding's superlative translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in our Centaur Classics series should be reissued in paperback as soon as a buyer for the Centaur Press has been finalised.

Yours faithfully,
JON WYNNE-TYSON
(Director),
Centaur Press Ltd,
Fontwell, West Sussex BN18 0TA.
February 6.

From Mr John Elton

Sir, The Centaur Press foreword to the 1961 *Metamorphoses* not only quotes Ezra Pound's celebrated dictum, but also refers to "Dr Rouse's admirable edition of 1904".

It quotes from a leading article in *The Times* (October 2, 1957): "He [Ovid] has influenced the content of European literature probably more than any other of the ancients."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ELTON,
3 Raymer Court, Avenue Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3QJ.
February 9.

Modern message

From Mr J. P. Rynn

Sir, Like Mr Michael Rand (letter, February 9), I'm having some difficulty with my computer voice programme.

I have a friend, Elsie, who is transcribed as Chelsea, a daughter-in-law, Josie, who appears as jealousy and — Hywel Lloyd (letter, February 4) will appreciate this — a granddaughter, Angharad, who appears always as And Harrods.

Yours faithfully,
JOE RYNN,
15 Prince Charles Gardens,
Southport, Merseyside PR8 2EU.
February 9.

Creepy feeling

From Mr Brendan Monks

Sir, A message to Dr Robert Bustard, who claims to have bred the world's largest bird-eating spider (report and photograph, later editions, February 12): Gee, thanks.

Yours sincerely,
B. MONKS,
9 Bracken Gardens, SW13 9HW.
February 13.

Loyalty of Peter Sellers

From Mr Michael B. Wolf

Sir, Dennis Selinger may have discovered Peter Sellers, as your obituary said (February 6), but, as with almost all others associated with him (wives, employees, advisers and friends), Sellers did not remain loyal to Selinger "for the rest of his life". In fact, Sellers left Selinger for the last several and most (financially) successful years of his career.

I have always believed that only Sellers's untimely death (in 1980) prevented him, sooner rather than later, from terminating his relationship with me (his lawyer).

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL B. WOLF,
1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900,
Los Angeles, California 90067.
February 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 6!

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Speculation after death of Princess

From Major-General R. P. Craig (retd)

Sir, Sancton and MacLeod ("Diana: the missing minutes", extract, February 10) report the belief of a New Orleans surgeon, Dr John Ochsner, that Diana, Princess of Wales, might well have survived if changes in pre-hospital procedures in France reflected those adopted 20 years ago in the United States. As one who has spent the bulk of his career in the management of trauma, I should like to comment.

Guidelines issued by the American College of Surgeons were revised only this year so as to stress the need for emergency surgery to stem haemorrhage rather than replace blood volume by using salt solutions. The French doctors and paramedics were following precisely what they had been taught.

The idea that one can improve the condition of people suffering serious blood loss due to vascular damage by pouring saline solution into them is, in my view, wholly false. I recall, for instance, that in Oman, in the early 1970s, multiple amputees from mine injuries who were suffering from severe loss of blood and had received no pre-hospital resuscitation arrived alive at our field surgical team (admittedly they were grossly hypotensive, with thready, fast pulses).

It was obvious that resuscitation with intravenous saline solutions produced a rise in blood pressure sufficient to open arteries and veins previously closed by physiological defence mechanisms; with limb injuries it was possible to clamp and tie-off these vessels under direct vision.

Should similar bleeding occur in the chest or abdomen, intravenous resuscitation without surgery stands every chance of killing the patient. I suspect strongly that this may well be what happened in Paris as a result of the so-called "stay and play" policy adopted by the French medical and paramedical staff, as opposed to the "scoop and run" policy advocated by Dr Ochsner (which I strongly support).

If competent surgical facilities are accessible within close reach, let us stop infusing useless fluids into bleeding patients.

Yours etc,
PETER CRAIG
(Director of Army Surgery, 1992-93),
24 Trafalgar Avenue, SE15 6NR.
February 12.

From Ms Frances Meadows

Sir, To publish lists of the personal effects found on the victims of Princess Diana's fatal crash (Features, February 10) is distasteful; speculation about whether she may have been pregnant is an intrusion way beyond the bounds of acceptable journalism.

What would have been an entirely private matter had she lived can be no less so now.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES MEADOWS,
Schimmelpenninclaan 14G,
2517 JN The Hague.
February 10.

From Mrs Kate Booth

Sir, There were only two people who knew how they felt about each other last summer. They are both dead. Should not their families now be spared any further wild speculation about their lives?

Yours faithfully,
KATE BOOTH,
Kilnside,
Harvest Hill, Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire SL8 5JJ.
February 13.

Welfare of hunted deer

From Mr John Butler

Sir, Dr C. B. Goodhart (letter, February 12) suggests that since most wild animals lead such brutish and short lives, hunting may not add much to their suffering.

The logic seems to be that compassion should be shown only to those who lead pleasant, comfortable lives. This reminds me of the description of bank managers lending money only to those who don't need it.

Yours faithfully,
J. BUTLER,
26 Court Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8ED.
February 12.

Prescott prank

From Mr David Staples

Sir, You have today published two pictures of Mr John Prescott (report, "Prescott doused ... at pop awards", later editions, February 10).

Could you please print a warning to your readers if you plan to repeat this exercise?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID T. STAPLES,
11 St Luke's Church,
42 Mayfield Road, N8 9LP.
dstaples@tpc-lon.com
February 10.

From Mr C. S. S. Buckel

Sir, This Nobacon fellow appears to be a bad egg.

Yours etc,
C. S. S. BUCKEL,
6 The Green,
Hove, East Sussex BN3 6TH.
February 13.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: His Excellency Mr Pavel Seifter was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Czech Republic to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Seifterová was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Professor Sergui Komissarenko and Mrs Komissarenko were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from Ukraine to the Court of St James's.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 13: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Brize Norton from Bhutan.

Mr Nicholas Archer, Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney were in attendance.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward will attend the opening of the new Real Tennis Court at the Bristol and Bath Tennis Club, Clifton, Bristol, at 11.30.

School news

School of S Mary and S Anne, Abbots Bromley
The Midland Chapter of Woodard Schools and the School Council of the School of S Mary and S Anne, Abbots Bromley, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Mary Steel, BAHons, PGCE, MIMgt, as Headmistress from September 1, 1998, in succession to Mr Alan Grigg, BA, M Phil, who is to retire on August 31, 1998.

Parkes Foundation

The Parkes Foundation Small Grants Fund has made the following awards for 1998 to:
Miss Hannah Dobrowolska, Durham University; Mr Mushtuq Husain, Cambridge University; Mr Julius Kivelia and Mr D. Michael Thompson, University College London; Miss J. Sheela, Bharathiar University, India.

Service dinners

***HMS President*, RNR**
The annual dinner of the Gunroom Mess *HMS President*, RNR, was held last night on board *HMS President*, by permission of Commander R.G. Avis, Commanding Officer. Rear-Admiral A.B. Richardson, Chief Harbourmaster, Port of London Authority, was the guest speaker. Sub-Lieutenant P.G.M. Whawell, president of the gunroom mess, presided.

RN College Greenwich
Commander J.M.C. Maughan, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the college.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Air Force
GROUP CAPTAIN: P A Bedford - HQ AFNORTHWEST, 13.2.98; P C Goodman - MOD, 16.2.98.
WING COMMANDER: R K Taplin - HQLC Brampton, 5.1.98; R L A Atherton - HQSTC, 12.1.98; M J G Wiles - HQLC Brampton, 19.1.98; F M Simpson - RAF Lyneham, 19.1.98; R S Smith - HQLC Wyton, 19.1.98; A J Dey - RAF Leeming, 26.1.98; G E Stacey - RAF Laarbruch, 2.2.98; R A Wilkins - MOD, 2.2.98; A P Lewis - RAF Mt Pleasant, 16.2.98.



DENZIL McNEELANCE

David Eveleigh and Kate Claydon, of Clapham, South London, who recently announced their engagement, sitting apppropriately by a statue of Venus near the City office where they work

Orchid show highlights threatened species

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AT THE same time as thousands of orchids are creating a magnificent display in the annual Kew Orchid Festival, which opens today, an exhibition in the Kew Gardens Gallery shows how botanists are racing against time to save unique orchids and other plants on the island of Madagascar.

The exhibition of photographs, which runs until July, shows Malagasy plants and their habitats and highlights Kew's work in saving plants, including 1,000 species of orchids, threatened by habitat destruction.

Islands of Enchantment is the theme of the festival which focuses on the many endangered orchids growing on islands around the world, and the work being done to aid their survival.

The main displays of orchid plants, in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, have been inspired by islands, and aim to create the appropriate atmosphere, although they do not necessarily include native plants.

The most skilful and artistic displays are in the floral area of the conservatory, where a mossy Japanese-style garden has been created, featuring drifts of golden yellow cymbidiums and pale yellow phalaenopsis, while cymbidiums drip from bamboo hanging baskets.

A hot-looking Madagascar area features red and yellow oncidiums, and red and orange *Buylstekearia* "cambria", arranged with dried grasses. An Iceland area, complete with bubbling mud pool, has massed displays of pink phalaenopsis and cream cymbidiums, which show up well against a background of black "volcanic ash".

The cool temperate section of the conservatory also features cymbidiums together with an informative display on Kew's conservation work in Mauritius.

The tropical section highlights Kew's involvement with the conservation of orchids in Madagascar. A special display, which represents an island habitat, features some of the world's interesting and beautiful orchid species, such as *Phalaenopsis fasciati* from the Philippines, whose orange flowers turn green when pollenated, and *Ludisia discolor* "Doris Stein", from the Far East, whose copper-coloured leaves have pink stripes.

The festival also includes flower arrangements by the Surrey area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies and in the Waterlily House from February 28 to March 22.

Pictorial displays in the conservatory include photographs from the National Orchid Garden in Singapore, which is very active in orchid breeding; paintings by local artists; and an educational exhibit of vanilla production in Madagascar, the island's most important export crop.

Another display shows the work of the Rio Atlantic Forest Trust which is involved in the regeneration of Brazil's Atlantic coastal rainforest.

A display in the Victoria Data Centre shows the orchid work of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The festival, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, West London, runs from today until March 29. Entrance is free after admission to the gardens, which are open from 9.30am to 5pm daily (glasshouses close at 4.45pm). For information on festival courses and lectures, telephone 0181-332 5626, and for guided tours, 0181-332 5633.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Thomas Malthus, economist and demographer, Rookery, Surrey, 1766; Christopher Sholes, pioneer of the typewriter, Mooresburg, Pennsylvania, 1819; Frank Harris, writer, Galway, 1856.
DEATHS: King Richard II reigned 1377-99, murdered at Pontefract Castle, 1400; John Hadley, pioneer of the sextant, East Barnet, Hertfordshire, 1744; Captain James Cook, explorer, murdered by natives, Hawaii, 1779; Henry Maudslay, inventor of the metal lathe, London, 1831; William Sherman, Union General in the American Civil War, New York, 1891; Sir Pelham (P.G.) Wodehouse, writer, New York, 1975; Sir Julian Huxley, biologist, London, 1975; Frederick (Fritz) Loewe, composer, Palm Springs, 1988.
The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, admitted its first patient, 1852.
Marconi began regular broadcasting transmissions from Essex, 1922.
The St Valentine's Day massacre took place in Chicago, 1929.
The German battleship *Bismarck* was launched, 1939.
The Bank of England was nationalised, 1946.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; Michael Praetorius, composer, Kreuzberg, Germany, 1571 (and he died on this day, Wolfenbüttel, 1621); King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkee, Co Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.
DEATHS: Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury 1501-03, London, 1503; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, Naples, 1713; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin, 1857; Nicholas Wiseman, Cardinal and first Archbishop of Westminster 1850-65, London, 1865; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of *Ben Hur*, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1905; Herbert Henry Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford and Asquith, Prime Minister 1908-16, Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, 1928; Ethel Merman, singer, New York, 1984.
The first cargo of frozen meat left New Zealand, bound for Britain, on the *SS Dunedin*, 1882.
Singapore surrendered to the Japanese Army, 1942.
Allied bombing began on Monte Cassino monastery in Italy, 1944.
Britain changed to decimal currency, 1971.

Weekend birthdays

The Prince of Liechtenstein celebrates his 53rd birthday today.
TODAY: The Right Rev Peter Ball, former Bishop of Gloucester, and his twin brother, the Right Rev Michael Ball, former Bishop of Truro, 66; Sir John Clark, former chairman, The Plessey Company, 72; Professor Evelyn Ebsworth, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 65; Mr Mark Eden, actor, 70; Sir Arnold Elton, consultant surgeon, 78; Professor D.W.O. Heddle, physicist, 70; Sir Jack Hibbert, former director, Central Statistical Office, 66; Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, former chairman, Allied-Lyons, 75; Mr Kevin Keegan, football manager, 47; Mr John MacGregor, MP, 61; Miss Manuela Maleeva, tennis player, 31; Countess Mountbatten of Burma, 74; Lord Newby, 45; Mr Alan Parker, film director, 54; Professor Peter H. Plesch, physical chemist, 80; Lord Rossmore, 67; Mr Michael Rudman, theatre director and producer, 59; Sir Albert Sloman, former Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, 77; Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman, English Heritage, 66; Mr A.W.H. Stewart-Moore, former chairman, Gallaher, 83; Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, 63; Mrs Margaret Wright, former chief commissioner, The Guide Association, 56.
TOMORROW: Mr John Adams, composer, 51; Mr Clive Aslet, Editor, *Country Life*, 43; Sir Nicholas Bayne, diplomat, 61; Sir Harold Beeley, diplomat, 89; Sir William Bentley, diplomat, 71; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 67; Mr Tony Bloom, deputy chairman, Sketchley, 59; Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman, Stone-Platt Industries, 92; the Earl of Carlisle, 49; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 57; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court judge, 75; Mr Frank Dunlop, former director, Edinburgh International Festival, 71; the Countess of Dysart, 84; Mr Paul Ferris, author, 69; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 69; the Earl of Jersey, 88; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal, Stirling University, 62; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 78; Mr C.F. Payne, former Chief Constable, Cleveland, 68; Sir William Reid, former Ombudsman, 67; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 47; Miss Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, 52; Mr P.J. Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 61; Sir Adrian Swire, chairman, John Swire and Sons, 66; Lord Justice Ward, 60.

Court and Social

For details of how to place a forthcoming marriage or marriage announcement on the Court Page telephone Mrs Janice Neenan, Court and Social Advertising, *The Times*, on 0171 782 7347.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J. Bery and Dr L.C. Christie
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roy Bery, of Ealing, London, and Lynne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Finlay Christie, of Glenrothes, Fife.

Squadron Leader I.C. Bessell and Flight Lieutenant T.I. Quigley
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mrs M.L. Bessell, and the late Mr G. Bessell, of St Newlyn East, Cornwall, and Tina, only daughter of Mrs A.M. Quigley, and Mr W. Quigley, of Middlesex.

Mr T.P. Gielgud and Miss S.E. Dobson
The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr Adam Gielgud, of Bristol, and Mrs Irene Gielgud, of Tooting Bec, London, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dobson, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Mr C.T. Jouning and Miss A.M.A. Cusack
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Roy Jouning, of Fulham, London, and Mrs Joy Jouning Buchanan, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Aine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pierce Cusack, of Houghton, South Africa.

Mr A.L.P. Markotza and Miss A.M. Williams
The engagement is announced between Leif, son of Mr Gothleif Svensson and Mrs Elisabeth Markotza, of Sweden, and Antonia, younger daughter of Sir Lawrence and Lady Williams, of Anglesey.

Mr C.S. Merrick and Miss S.J. Elson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, third son of Mr and Mrs John Merrick, of Bristol, and Samantha, only daughter of Mrs Anne Nicholls and the late Kenneth Elson, and stepdaughter of Desmond Nicholls, of Constantine, Cornwall.

Mr O.C. Skelding and the Hon J.J. Norrie
The engagement is announced between Oliver, only son of Mr S. Skelding, of Fulham, London, and Mrs C. Skelding, of Pauntley, Gloucestershire, and Julia, younger daughter of Lord Norrie, of Kensington, London, and Celia, Lady Norrie, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

Mr J. Marshall and Miss J.A. Thomason
The engagement is announced between Johnathon, son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Marshall, of Harthill, South Yorkshire, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Thomason, of Chicago, USA.

Mr S.J. Martin and Miss R.C.C. Mason
The engagement is announced between Simon John, son of Mr and Mrs Harry Martin, of Corley Moor, Warwickshire, and Rachel Clare Courtenay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Mason, of Cerne Abbas, Dorset.

Mr S.G. Lloyd and Miss A.A. Cornwell
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs William Lloyd, of Abingdon, Oxon, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Cornwell, of Mursley, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.C.W. Roberts and Miss S.E. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Miles Roberts, of Taunton, Somerset, and Sylvia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Roberts, of Capetown, South Africa.

Mr P.N. Smith and Miss S.M. Rogers
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Norman Smith, of Sunderland, and Sheena, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Rogers, of Blackmore End, Hertfordshire.

Mr F.C. Stoddart and Miss V.C. Banks
The engagement is announced between Fergus, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Wilfrid Stoddart, of Bebington, Wirral, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr Christopher Banks, of Eastbourne, and Mrs Brenda Banks, of Edinburgh.

Mr D.G. Trevor-Roper and Miss C.F. Moore
The engagement is announced between Dacre, elder son of Dr and Mrs Charles Trevor-Roper, of Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire, and Claire, daughter of Commander and Mrs Alick Moore, of Trudoxhill, Somerset.

Mr D.E. Williams and Miss D.J. Shroff
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs J.K. Williams, of Hartlepool, and Dinaz, only daughter of Dr and Mrs B.J. Shroff, of Halling, Kent.

Latest wills

Margaret Pike, of Newton Abbot, Devon, left estate valued at £2,478,814 net.
She left £2,000 to the Girl Guides Association.

Mary Anna Gifford Tabor, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £725,899 net.
She left £2,000 each to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Cancer Research Campaign and the British Heart Foundation, and £1,000 to Richmond Hill Congregational Church, Bournemouth.

Barbara Talbot, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £545,850 net.

Jack Philip Yardley, retired medical practitioner, of London N2, left estate valued at £749,067 net.

Mary Alice Tolley, of Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £602,480 net.

Leslie William Upton, of Keynsham, Bristol, left estate valued at £647,041 net.
He left the residuary of his estate to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Eleanor Victoria Webb, of London SW7, left estate valued at £585,553 net.

Peter John De La Fosse Wiles, of London WC1, left estate valued at £888,388 net.

James Baird Young, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £701,507 net.

ON THIS DAY

February 14, 1984

As the 1998 Winter Olympics continue at Nagano, it is 14 years since Torvill and Dean achieved their greatest triumph — a gold medal on St Valentine's Day at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo

STUNNING TORVILL AND DEAN REACH GOLDEN PINNACLE OF PERFECTION

From John Hennessy, Sarajevo

WHAT better way for the two sweethearts of British sport to spend St Valentine's Day than to hypnotize a capacity crowd at the Zetra Stadium, among them Princess Anne, as they played out their tragic love story to the music of Ravel's "Bolero".

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean not only held the crowd, but also the nine judges so completely in their thrall that this time they accumulated 12 maximum marks of 6.0 to surpass their record of 11 in Lyons two years ago and Budapest one month ago, and received a full set of sixes for artistic impression.

Thus, Britain thrillingly acquired their third skating gold medal in successive Olympics in the wake of John Curry in 1976 and Robin Cousins in 1980.

With respect to both, this was a greater triumph. Whereas Torvill and Dean came to Sarajevo with three gold medals and the burden of overwhelming favourites, Curry won his one world title after the Olympics and Cousins never did win one.

It was a superlative demonstration of classical skating, interpreted to such perfect pitch that the heart alternately sang and froze as the couple themselves swung between the emotions, a smile here, a haunting gesture of despair there, before their suicide pact cast them into the volcano.

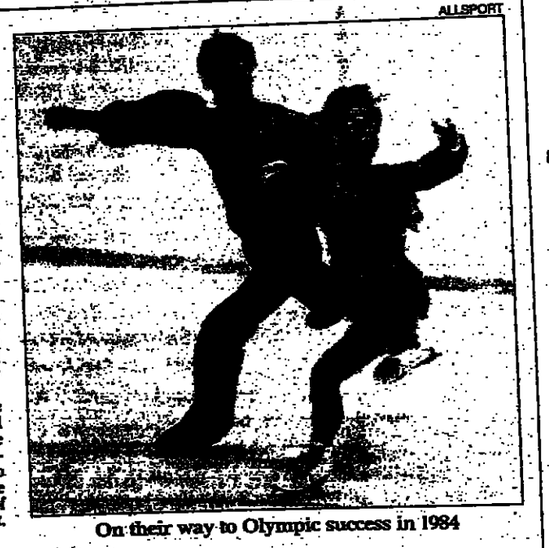
Dean said afterwards, to no one's surprise: "This was the pinnacle of our amateur career." His partner "simply couldn't believe it really, couldn't believe it was all over. Everything seemed to click into place."

How they shamed those of us of little faith who began to see errors in training when none existed and sought out imaginary signs of nerves. When the crunch came they proved themselves stronger even than they had done with the "Barnum" routine in Helsinki last year. There was character too, not only in the way they faced up to this supreme test, but in the way they had the courage of their convictions to stay with the "Bolero" when some who should have known better were picking unnecessary holes in it.

The changes they had made since the European championships in Budapest included two stunning highlights early in the programme: a full split by Dean with body twists, and a lift where he took his partner off the ice with his free leg, and which came as such a surprise to the audience that they broke into prolonged applause.

From that moment on they were home. The audience, so cold towards their original set pattern Paso Doble, developed a thread of empathy that must have encouraged the British couple still further. It was a beautiful performance, on a different plane from any that had gone before.

There were not many Britons in the audience, so it must be seen as a universal accolade that the stadium rose to them at the end. Americans who had vociferously supported their compatriots, and Russians who had chanted encouragement to theirs, were one with everybody in saluting a display of interpretative skating that, dare one suggest, has no precedent.



ALLSPORT

On their way to Olympic success in 1984

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000
TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Creator of the universe, who designed the beginning of mankind and devised the origin of all, will in his mercy give you back again breath and life, since you now put his laws above every thought of self. 2 Maccabees 7 : 23

BIRTHS

POWLER - On February 10th 1998, to Nicola and Jeffrey, a son, William Jeffrey Joseph, a brother for George, Sarah, James and Olivia.

PROUDE - On February 7th at The Princess Royal Hospital, to Samantha (née Elliott) and Peter, a daughter, Hannah.

KIRKPATRICK - On January 26th at Guys Hospital at 7.50pm, to Niall and Anahita, a son, Seán Darius, a brother for Guy Tiarnán.

McCONNELL - On February 10th at Oxford, to Pippa (née Hanly) and Simon, a daughter, Laura Emily.

MORGAN - To Natasha (née MacDonnell) and John on February 9th, a daughter Scarlett Louisa, a sister for Arthur.

PEEL - On February 10th to Hannah (née Clarke) and Robin, a daughter.

RELPH - On February 10th 1998, to John and Gillian (née Cattesall), a daughter, Elizabeth Emily, a sister for Katherine, Peter and Andrew.

SAMPSON - On February 6th, to Georgina (née Day) and Tom, a daughter, Susannah Caroline.

TERRY - On February 11th to Justyn and Cathy (née Fleetwood), a daughter, Sophia. Thanks be to God.

WALKER - On February 10th 1998 to Katie and Clive, a son, Jack Frederick Parker.

DEATHS

BERNARD - Juliet Mary on 10th February 1998, peacefully after a long illness courageously borne. Loving and most loved eldest daughter of Sheila Bernard and Dallas Bernard and adored sister of Alicia and Sarah. Much loved by all her family and her very many friends. Funeral Service to be held at the Temple Church, EC4 at 11 am on Tuesday, 17th February. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the BOX Study, Diabetes Medical School Unit, Southmead Hospital, Bristol BS10 5NB.

DICKINSON - Peter peacefully at home in Northumberland on February 11th. Funeral at St. Peter's Church, Newbrough, on Tuesday February 17th at 2.00pm.

FOSTER - Florence Eugenia (née Bonhote) - On Thursday February 12th 1998, peacefully in her 84th year. Dearly loved wife of the late Rodney, devoted mother and mother-in-law of Mike and Annabel, Anta and Jilly, Loo and Nick and grandmother of Lucy, Harrie and Jasmin, Tilly, Charley and Tom, Tia and Justin, Adam and Georgie. Quiet funeral in Highclere. Donations if desired to The Hampshire Red Cross.

HAWKINS - On February 12th 1998 at The Garden House Hospice, Rodney Hawkins aged 71. Beloved husband of Jen and much loved father of Lin, Sarah and Robert. Family flowers only, but donations for The Garden House Hospice may be sent c/o R.H. Crouch Funeral Directors, 23A Hitchin Street, Baldock, SG7 6AQ. Tel: 01462 893191 to whom all enquiries should be made.

HYDE - Kenneth Edwin educationalist and scholar, unexpectedly in Pontefract, on February 10th aged 83. For funeral details please telephone 01482 865522.

LOCK - Muriel Lavinia (née Rogers) died 31st January 1998 at home in Wembley after a long illness. Much loved wife of Henry George and mother of Roger, Martin and Christopher.

MacKINNON - Mary passed away 10th February in King George's Hospital, Good Mayes, Ilford. Sadly missed by all the family. Funeral on Tuesday 17th February at 11am at The City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park E12. No flowers by request. All enquiries West & Coe. Tel: 0181 592 0164.

MIDDLETON - Sir George Humphrey K.C.M.G. peacefully at home on Thursday 12th February, beloved husband of Francoise and much loved father and grandfather. Private funeral. Memorial Service to be announced. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the International Social Service, Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road, London S.W.9 6.D.D.

PAGDEN - Joan Mary suddenly on 11th February 1998. Dearly loved wife of the late Jack Pagden, sister of Peggy and Charles, devoted mother of Anthony and Juliet and loving grandmother of Imogen, Benedict, Antonia, Felix and Sebastian. Funeral Service at St. Nicolas Church, Pevensey on Friday 20th February at 2.00pm, followed by interment at St Andrew's Churchyard, Alfriston. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG. Enquiries to Hailsham Funeral Service, 11 Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex. Tel: 01323 440909.

PARKER - David Parker MBE (Lt. Col.) peacefully on February 10th, aged 84. Much loved husband of Annette and father of John and Stephen. Funeral on Wednesday 18th February at 3pm at St John's Church, Hartley, Wintney, Hants. Flowers from Country Garden Flowers, 146 Fleet Road, Fleet. Tel: 01252 816366.

RANGELEY-WILSON - Marjorie Anne (née Archdale) on 6th February aged 58 years, at home with her family. Wife of Stuart, mother of Charles, grandmother of Patrick, daughter of Ellen and the late Richard Archdale. Funeral Service at St. Wilfrid's, Leybourne Park, Kew Gardens on Wednesday 18th February at 10.30am. All friends welcome for the Service; private burial. Donations (Macmillan Cancer Relief) or flowers c/o T.H. Sanders 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA.

SPRIGGS - Katherine (Kate) died suddenly on 10th February 1998 in a road traffic accident. Daughter of Rena and Sam, sister to Peter, missed by all who knew her. Funeral at 2.30pm on Wednesday 18th February at St Peter's Church, Arnesby, Leicestershire. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Peter's Church, Arnesby for the Gangamahapuram Community Project in South India, c/o Atkinson & Son, 12 London Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5DG

TRITTON - Anne (Andrina) peacefully on 12th February aged 83, Widow of Ronnie, loved mother of Paul and Jane. Funeral private. Memorial service to be announced.

WAGG - Jean Constance, peacefully in her sleep on February 10th in her 98th year, after a long, lively and happy life. Much loved and adored wife of the late Teddy. Mother of David, Robin and Peter and grandmother of Louise, Anna, Peter, Sasha, Millie, Georgina, Jamie, Andrew, Kristina and especially little George. Funeral Service at Beaulieu Abbey Church on Wednesday 18th February at 2.30pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory for St. Mary's Church, Beaulieu Hard, may be sent c/o F.W. House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9NP.

WARD - Paul Clarendon, musician. Peacefully on February 11th 1998. Dearly loved by Susan, Harriet, Nicholas, his nine grandchildren and step-great grandchildren. Family funeral. Memorial Service later. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care or St Elizabeth Hospice c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service, 64 New Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1DX.

WOODFORDE - Oliver Heighes CBE MBE died suddenly 9th February 1998 aged 83. Loving husband, father and grandfather.

YOUNG - Michael Hugh DFC Mentioned in despatches, peacefully with his family on 12th February 1998, after a brave struggle against cancer. Dear husband of Betty, father of Susan and Alison, father in law of Jonathan, grandpa to Claire, Jeremy, Emma and Charlotte. Funeral Service at St. Michael's Church, Bringsfield on Thursday 19th February at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only please or if preferred donations to Marie Curie or Cotswold Care Hospice c/o Phillip Ford & Son Funeral Directors, Dixtenn House, Cirencester Road, Stroud, Glos.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LOWE - A service in celebration of the life of Robson Lowe will be held at 3.30 pm on 16th February 1998 at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ALLENBY - John Allenby, CBE. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Allenby will take place on Thursday 12th March at 12 noon at the Church of All Saints, Crondall, Farnham, Surrey. All are welcome.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

NELSON - Captain Horatio. And all who fought so valiantly at the Battle of Cape St Vincent, February 14th 1797. Remembered by the Knights of Trafalgar.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GRAHAM - Martin passed away suddenly 14/2/97. Always loved, always remembered. Christine, the girls, mother, sisters.

KEEBON - In proud and affectionate memory of Lt. Col. Cuthbert Alfred Gaynor Cuthbert Keeson OBE MC TD born 100 years ago today, died 22nd December 1988.

BIRTHDAYS

LAVENDER - Thomas William of Aspley Guise and Liverpool is 21 today. Which key to which door? Love and kisses from the Stewarts

TICKETS FOR SALE

WANTED DESSERTURE SEATS any condition. Tel 01222 709647

FOR SALE

YORK, PEBSANT: stone, limestone & terracotta fireplaces & floors, tiles, cobbles, pebble, gravel & paving, masonry service, Wet & Dry repair, del. Hedley, Hazzell 01380 860089 (Wilts)

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1947-1997 in presentation folder £19.99 incl p&p. Personal year videos avail. Tel/Fax 01924-412944 6pm 7 days.

A special Valentines present... £1,000 buys a 50% share in a racehorse for 1998 all expenses inc. 01284 850908.

FLOWERS BY POST your round. 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 12 Roses, Lilies or Freesias £16.00, 25 Freesias £20.00, 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £24.50. Cost and message incl. La Nouvelle Maison Florale, St Giles-on-the-Heath, Nr. Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7LY. Tel 01822 832052. Fax: 01822 832012.

FLATSHARE

ACCOMMODATION Week days in Notting Hill/Acton, 2m, BR, 10 mins, £60pw. 0181 8746 0080.

WANTED

STAMP collections purchased. Postcards & signature cards etc. Tel: 01702 201990.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1947-1997 in presentation folder £19.99 incl p&p. Personal year videos avail. Tel/Fax 01924-412944 6pm 7 days.

February 14th 1998 is Variety Club GOLD HEART DAY

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
Mrs J. Neenan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £15.25 per line inc VAT.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION
You Can Live and Work in the U.S.A!
Learn about the Green Card and Business Visas.
Get Your Questions Answered.
Informational Seminar
Monday, 23 February 1998, 6.00pm - 8.30pm
The Howard Hotel • Temple Place • London
Speaker: Jeffrey A Devore • American Immigration Attorney
Call Debbie for Reservations (0171) 936 - 2850 During Office Hours • Seating is Limited
Sponsored By: Morrimans White
Solicitors • Privy Council Agents
3 King's Bench Walk • Inner Temple • London

OBITUARIES

LADY DOREEN PRIOR-PALMER

Lady Doreen ("Bunty") Prior-Palmer, international horse trials selector, died on January 22 aged 77. She was born on June 7, 1920.



Although very much an original, Bunty Prior-Palmer was a member of an illustrious Scottish family with a long record of public service. Her father, the 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow, was Viceroy of India from 1936 to 1943. Her grandfather, the 7th Earl of Hopetoun, created 1st Marquess of Linlithgow in 1902, was the first Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Born Lady Doreen Hope at Hopetoun House, the family's imposing home on the banks of the Firth of Forth, she enjoyed a period-piece childhood, with nannies, governesses and outdoor pursuits such as hunting. It also involved an endless struggle to obtain roles in the home-movie-making efforts of her four elder brothers and sisters. But this phase of her life ended at the age of 16, when the family sailed for India so that her father could take up his post as Viceroy.

Linlithgow's seven-year reign at Delhi and Simla coincided with the rise of Indian nationalism, a process accelerated by his own rather aloof manner — to say nothing of what Rab Butler called his "negative" attitude towards self-determination. Nor were things much helped by the outbreak of war in Europe and by the subsequent Japanese invasion and occupation of Burma.

Earlier, however, the Viceroy's youngest daughter had participated fully in the panoply and pageantry of viceregal tours, state visits to Indian princes, banquets and expeditions to places such as Tibet and Kashmir. She took tea with Chiang Kai-shek and was Joint Master of the Delhi Foxhounds (hunting jackal).

She witnessed at close quarters the unequal political contest between her father and the charismatic Mahatma Gandhi. Meanwhile from London the India Office was making futile attempts — notably through the Government of India Act of 1935 — to persuade the individual state rulers to take part in an experiment in federal self-government.

Yet her abiding interest lay in trying to interpret the philosophy and religions of the Orient. Her central achievement was to grasp the essence of the Eastern non-materialistic ethic and to apply it to the way she lived for the rest of her days. This gave her a wisdom and humour, and she was both unselfish and unhurried.

The family returned from India in 1943, though they had to turn their plane back to Gibraltar several times as spies in Algeciras alerted the Luftwaffe each time it ventured out over the Atlantic. Their London house had been bombed, so they set up home in a flat at Claridge's, though even this was something of a comedown from the grandeur and space of Lutyens's Viceroy's House in New Delhi or, indeed, from Viceregal Lodge at Simla.

It was during the war — as a YMCA mobile canteen driver — that Bunty first met Brigadier Erroll Prior-Palmer, an international polo player, the commander of the "swimming tanks" on D-Day and later the man who did a great deal to bring containerisation to Britain.

On being ordered to take charge of postwar Hanover in 1945, he insisted — no doubt somewhat to his superiors' mystification — that a certain named and identified YMCA mobile canteeen be put under his command as well. He and Bunty were married in 1948 (he for the second time). It remained an exceptionally happy partnership until his death in 1977.

Both during her widowhood and before it, Bunty Prior-Palmer provided unobtrusive but vital support and guidance to her daughter, Lucinda, who won Horse Trials' premier event, Badminton, a record six times. It was Bunty who found Lucinda's first great horse, Be Fair, and in 1977 she was appointed as an international horse trials selector, first to the Junior Team, and in 1982 to the Young Riders. She was at various times president of the Wessex Rehabilitation Association and president of the Lhasa Apso Society (concerned with Tibetan dogs).

She travelled widely, often as a companion to her lifelong friend, Gina Phillips, and during the latter's presidency of the St John Ambulance Brigade, she toured the South Pacific islands and other far-flung dependencies. In recent years she undertook private expeditions to Madagascar, Botswana, Zambia, China — invariably returning home with new perspectives.

Although a shy person, she received an unusual level of devotion from people of differing ages and backgrounds through her ability to help others with their problems, no matter how trivial or traumatic. Her insights were enhanced, too, by her unfailing sense of humour. She was an elegant writer, although too diffident ever to publish anything; she also had a good eye for art, being an early purchaser of a Ben Nicholson which, much to her regret, she recently had to sell. More than most people, she prized the absurdities of life, being particularly amused by the 40th year of argument over Stonehenge's car park, which was resited in 1958 by her brother, Lord Glendevon, when, as Lord John Hope, he served as Harold Macmillan's Minister of Works.

She delighted, at the height of her daughter's career, in the contrast between her skivvy's way of life, cooking for assorted grooms and helpers, and the existence she had once known at Viceroy's House in New Delhi with a host of servants at her beck and call.

She is survived by her son, Simon, her daughter, Lucinda, and a stepdaughter, Karol.

PATRICK TRITTON

Patrick Tritton, horseman, died in Mexico from respiratory problems on February 1 aged 63. He was born on May 18, 1934.

ONE of life's more colourful characters, Patrick Tritton enhanced the lives of his many less exotic friends. He was brought up partly in Ireland, where his somewhat eccentric mother insisted that he and his brother Nicholas should be initiated into the mysteries of poaching. Whether because of that or not, he early on acquired a large measure of Irish charm — though as far as anyone knows he had not a drop of Irish blood in his veins.

The son of a stockbroker, Patrick Claude Henry Tritton was sent to school at Eton and went from there to do his National Service, being commissioned into The King's African Rifles, spending his time mainly in the then Crown Colony of Mauritius.

In October 1954 he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he immediately endeared himself to a host of friends, who even today recall his exploits with a mixture of exasperation and affection. Horses played a large part in his undergraduate life — certainly larger than the History Tripos which he read for the first two years. Nevertheless, his supervisor, Walter Ullman (later Professor of Medieval History) was fascinated by so unconventional a pupil and remarked some years later that "Cambridge is very dull now that merit has taken over and there are no more characters like Tritton".

As well as being rumoured to take his horse to lectures, Tritton certainly on one occasion asked the chaplain of Trinity, Simon Phipps, to bless the animal before the university point-to-point. When the future Bishop of Lincoln sternly refused, he turned to the Roman Catholic chaplain to the university, Monsignor Alfred Gilbey, who was happy to oblige. Unfortunately Tritton and his mount were unplaced, so the worthy Monsignor forfeited a possible Catholic convert. The charms of Newmarket continued, however, to outbid those of the History Faculty, causing him in his last year to switch to Arabic, in which he managed to obtain a degree — enabling him, after he had gone down, at least to take the hat around in an Arab circus in North Africa.

He was, in fact, a considerable linguist and, after a time in Spain, he moved to South America. Running out of money in Argentina, he drove a herd of cattle over the Andes to Chile in order to put himself in sufficient funds to get to Mexico City, where the name of his stepmother Veronica Pearson — a Cowdray cousin — ensured him a warm welcome.

His first few years in Mexico City were enlivened by a pet ocelot, which he had to feed wearing boxing gloves. His living conditions were spartan — not to say primitive — though his friends who came to stay were more than happy to put up with them simply for the pleasure of his company.

His circumstances were to change dramatically when he married Nancy Oakes, the daughter of the wealthy Sir Harry Oakes who had been murdered in the Bahamas when the Duke of Windsor was Governor-General. He and his wife lived for the next eight or nine years in the utmost luxury in one of the grandest houses in Mexico. It was not long before he imported a pack of hounds from England, which he drove down in a van from New York, much to the amazement of the locals wherever he and the van stopped. He had his own hunt uniform made — russet leather coat with a green collar (the leather being a good protection from thorns and cactus). For several years he featured in *Bailey's Hunting Directory* under "Foreign Packs: Mexico City, Mr Tritton's Hounds".

Patrick Tritton's first marriage was dissolved in 1973, and in 1978 he married the actress Georgina Ward, the daughter of the 1st Viscount Ward of Witley, the former Secretary of State for Air. He and his second wife spent 20 very happy years together, and she survives him.





Peter Nelson and the owner, Mrs Sharon Phillips, leading in Snow Knight after winning the 1974 Derby

PETER NELSON

Peter Nelson, former racehorse trainer, died on February 12 aged 84. He was born on March 22, 1913.

IN THE history of the Derby from 1780 up to the time that Snow Knight, trained by Peter Nelson, won in 1974, only nine horses had succeeded at odds of 50-1 or longer. Snow Knight, frowned on by the breeding pundits, and without sufficient form to justify public confidence, became the tenth, at exactly 50-1.

Not that he was unfancied by his trainer. But Nelson, although freely tipping him to others, had not availed himself personally of the generous odds on offer and, perhaps to underline the unexpectedness of the result, he always said that he celebrated the victory with a plate of scrambled eggs and an early night.

Yet Snow Knight still needed training to capture the Turf's most illustrious race, and this Nelson did most professionally — at the same time, no doubt, savouring the memory that Snow Knight had been bought almost as a joke as a Derby prospect.

During 1972, Mrs Sharon Phillips, the wife of a Montreal solicitor, Neil F. Phillips, who had had horses with Nelson for a decade, asked the trainer and his wife, in a light-hearted moment, to buy a horse for her that would capture the Derby, but which would not cost more than 5,000 guineas. Accordingly, Mrs Nelson, a very fine judge of a yearling, went to the Newmarket sales in October and, for 5,200 guineas, she secured a big chestnut colt by Firestreak (whom Nelson had trained) who was later named Snow Knight.

One of the reasons that his price was so long for the Derby was that he had failed to impress in the traditional Derby trial at Lingfield (where the course is similar to that at Epsom) and, indeed, it appeared as if he might not act round the left-hand bends and gradients that lay ahead in the big race.

In the event, two factors were in Snow Knight's favour: the field for the classic was slightly below par, and secondly, the going was fast, which suited him admirably. Taking the lead boldly with half a dozen furlongs still to go, Snow Knight made the rest of the running and triumphed decisively.

The outcome was not greeted with much joy except by the bookmakers. But the victory, to say nothing of Nelson's training skills, may have been underestimated. Snow Knight was later exported to Canada and became the best horse on grass in North America.

Peter Maurice Nelson was educated at Marlborough and the Royal Military College Sandhurst, where he proved an outstanding athlete. He then served as a Regular officer from 1933 to 1947 in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. In 1948, he took out a licence to train at Lambourn with ten horses. Such was his success that by 1958 his string had grown to 45.

It was significant that his first good horse was a sprinter (and one who has left an indelible mark in the stud book as a sire of fast horses). This was the Maharanee of Baroda's Whistler, who took the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot and five of his other six races as a two-year-old. Three years later, he had another fast two-year-old in Weeber, who also succeeded at Royal Ascot.

These, however, were but two of the speedy horses of which Nelson made a speciality. Notable among the others were Bay Express, who in 1974 won the big sprint at Royal Ascot, the King's Stand, and the following year the equally important Nunthorpe Stakes as well; and French Plea, who although not quite top-class, managed a second in the Nunthorpe and a third in the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp. Both Victorina and Apollo Nine won the Stewards Cup, in 1962 and 1971 respectively. And, leaving sprinters aside, Vervain succeeded in the 1969 King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot.

An extremely pleasant and well-liked man, Peter Nelson retired in 1975 and was then able to devote much more time to another activity at which he excelled: golf at Sunningdale and elsewhere. He leaves his widow Marguerite ("Mac") and two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Home sweet home?

Or is it? Is someone close to you suffering the infirmities of old age? Are they dreading another winter alone? Are they too proud to ask for help? We provide comfort and skilled care for life in our nursing and residential homes. For details, call Freephone 0800 413 220.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CARING
HOMELIFE
1897-1997

Registered Charity No. 207652

As seen in the Miss Anne Extension

Learn to drive a STEAM ENGINE in the snows of a Finnish winter

2 full days - Sat & Sun in March

Wives/husbands welcome
English speaking instructor
Fly Finnair Fri & Mon
5 star hotel in Helsinki
£1,300 incl. flights, & hotel (full board)
Steam Traction Ltd.
0181-804 1928
in conjunction with Star Air Travel
ABTA E9198

EX SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

COMBAT STRESS

WE OWE A LOT TO OUR SOLDIERS

Who fight for us guarding our freedom and our childrens future. Some fall on hard times. We need your help to help them. A donation now and a legacy later will help soldiers, ex soldiers and their families in need.

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

MARK
Have I told you lately?
M.

CHARITY APPEALS

Imperial College
OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH FUND

We are a new registered charity based at the Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine. The Fund supports highly innovative, promising research into early diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

Please send support to PCRF c/o Mrs Wendy McGovern, ICSTM, Biology Dept, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 0171 594 5385.

FLATS TO LET

W1 Molyneux Street, 1 bedroom flat, immaculately decorated, features include glass wall, low heating, maple wood flooring. £175 pw. 0171 723 2995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Prince of Wales' Charitable Trust
Scheme
Reference: RC-377540/87715-CD(Lds)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Farrer & Co, 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LH or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

MILESTONES



Enoch Powell, PC, MBE, politician, classical scholar and poet, died on February 8 aged 85. He was born on June 16, 1912.

Although he had already fallen from political grace and left the party, Enoch Powell shaped the principle that gave the Conservatives their longest period of rule this century: the policy of sound money (or monetarism) adopted by Margaret Thatcher. Powell had been inveighing against runaway public expenditure since his resignation with Macmillan's Treasury team in 1958. But in April 1968 he was sacked by Edward Heath from the Opposition front bench after a speech in which he called for a tightening of immigration policy and spoke of the danger of race riots using a line from Virgil: "I seem to see the Tiber foaming with much blood". Nationalism was also at the root of Powell's stand against Britain's entry into the EEC. His denunciation of Heath's policy during the first general election of 1974 may have helped to destroy the Government. It certainly made it impossible for Powell to remain in the party. From 1974 to 1987 he sat as an Ulster Unionist and never counted as a political player again.

Obituary published on February 9.



Carl Wilson, pop singer, died of cancer on February 6 aged 51. He was born on December 21, 1946.

Together with his two of his brothers, Carl Wilson formed the Beach Boys in 1961. Though only one of the brothers, Dennis, was actually a surfer, the group elaborated an authentic Californian mythology of surf, sun, girls and hot-rods. It brought them a string of hits (in sun-starved Britain as well as the US) which included *Good Vibrations, Surfin' Safari, Fun Fun Fun* and *California Girls*. Dennis Wilson drowned in 1983. Brian became an increasingly troubled recluse, and Carl's attempt at a solo career in the 1980s was a flop. But the Beach Boys' myth endured, now mixed with nostalgia, and Carl led a new line-up in an annual Beach Boys' tour until last year.

Obituary published on February 10.



Maurice Schumann, French Foreign Minister, 1969-73, died on February 10 aged 86. He was born on April 10, 1911.

One of the first to join de Gaulle after his rallying broadcast to the French in June 1940, Maurice Schumann worked as his spokesman and as chief broadcaster in the BBC's French service until 1944. He served de Gaulle as a minister from 1958, but resigned in 1962 over his disdainful attitude to European unification. When the new President of France, Georges Pompidou, made Schumann Foreign Minister in 1969, it was a signal that the attitude that had vetoed Britain's entry into the EEC was over. Edward Heath duly signed the Treaty of Accession in 1972. Schumann was defeated in the elections of 1973 and spent much of the rest of his life writing.

Obituary published on February 11.

هكذا من الأصل

Equities enjoy late surge

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
599	407½	Allied Domecq†	530	- 3	4.6	13.6
626	342½	Bulmer (HP)†	363½	+ 11	5.1	11.3
75½	29½	Burn Stewart	30	+ ½	14.2	10.4
645½	55	Diageo†	559	+ 8	3.2	17.1
1040	825	Glenmorangie A	825		2.0	19.7
380	277½	Highland Distl	279	- ½	4.0	12.9
336	157	Matthew Clark†	194	+ 6½	12.9	6.3
109½	45	Merydew W	47½	- 7	8.2	
2009½	1368½	SA Breweries	1550	- 62½	2.4	

BANKS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	919½	ABN-AMRO	1216½	- 6½	2.6	17.7
1345	710	Abbey Ntl	1184	- 10	2.8	19.4
985	532½	Alliance & Leic	892	- 36	2.3	20.9
701½	388½	Allied Irish	701½	+ 8	2.5	21.6
516½	363½	Aus New Z	395½	- 3½	5.2	
4953½	2875	Bank America†	4531½	- 18½		
715	291½	Bank Scotland	640	- 6	1.7	17.7
1996	978½	Barclays	1886	+ 30	2.2	17.9
1056½	517½	Bk of Ireland	1028½	+ 11½	2.0	22.5
8959½	6006½	Citicorp	7790½	+ 65½		
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1625	- 9½	2.8	
862½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	526	- 18½	0.8	
4593½	2703½	Deutsche Bk	4171½	- 21½	1.4	
1300	750½	Espirito Santo	1190½		3.1	
947½	196	Fuji Bank Y	454½	- 12½	0.9	
2360½	1272½	HSBC	1610	- 31	3.6	13.0
2256½	1226	HSBC HK	1509	- 32	3.8	12.2
957½	50½	Halifax	904½	+ 1½	2.1	30.5
812½	483½	Irish Perm	792½		2.0	21.9
950	424	Lloyds TSB	873	+ 38	2.5	22.9
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	790½	- 11½	5.0	
1208	663½	Nat West	1140	+ 1	3.3	18.0
645	449	Northern Rock	643½	+ 8½	2.1	24.0
982	508	Ryl Bk Scot†	937	+ 15	2.9	18.4
1093½	528	Sthd Chart	673½	- 4½	2.9	11.8
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
426½	315½	Westpac	408½	- 5½	3.6	
400	257½	Woolwich	369	+ 5½	2.7	21.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

EULER

WORLD LEADERS IN CREDIT INSURANCE

"You can never plan the future by the past"

Edmund Burke

CALL: 01454 204 104

http://www.tradeindemnity.com

TRADE INDEMNITY

a EULER company

Source: FT Information.

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ·· No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BONDS 30

loyds £2b

an accus ver prici

هكذا من الأصل



BONDS 30

Rockers and bankers aim to play it again sum

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 1998



Sir Brian Pitman said if Barclays and NatWest sought to merge, he would intervene — not to spoil the party, but to see if Lloyds TSB would be a better partner

Lloyds TSB's value soars by £2bn as profits surge



Ellwood: natural wastage

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

MORE than £2 billion was added to the market value of Lloyds TSB as the UK's largest high street bank disclosed a 26 per cent rise in 1997 pre-tax profits to £3.16 billion.

Shares in Lloyds TSB finished the day 4.5 per cent higher, as the City digested news of a 30 per cent rise in the year's dividend to 17.2p. The bank's capitalisation now stands at more than £47 billion.

The bank also held out the prospect of a £1 billion cash handout, admitting that it was prepared to return some of its excess capital to shareholders if it could not find a suitable acquisition within 18 months.

However, trade unions claimed that the bank could close more than 650 branches with the loss of 10,000 jobs once the merger between Lloyds and TSB is approved later this year by Parliament.

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, said return on equity had exceeded 30 per cent during the year. Income rose by 26 per cent and operating expenses fell by 5 per cent. But he said there was no complacency at the bank and operating costs would continue to be pushed down.

Later, Peter Ellwood, chief executive, conceded that this would mean a further reduction in the 82,500-strong workforce and a possible slimming of the 2,600-strong branch network. He emphasised that job losses could be achieved through staff turnover. The headcount fell by 4,426 last year.

In the two years since the merger underlying cost reductions have reached £220 million. Last year the cost-income ratio fell from 57 per cent to 50.4 per cent. Mr Ellwood said the group was well on its way to achieving its goal of £400 million per annum in cost reductions by the end of 1999.

On acquisitions, Sir Brian said he was "still hungry" but would not be drawn on possible targets, other than to say that he would prefer the UK to overseas. The group has recently been linked to Norwich Union and Abbey National, but both companies have made it clear they want to retain their independence, and Lloyds TSB would not countenance a hostile bid.

However, Sir Brian said he would feel compelled to intervene if Barclays and Natwest were to seek a merger, as has been mooted in recent months, even though such a deal is unlikely to pass muster with the competition authorities. "It wouldn't be so much as spoiling the party, as to seeing whether we would be a better partner," he said.

One minor blemish on the accounts was a 17 per cent increase in provisions against bad and doubtful debts to £421 million as a result of higher provisions overseas, especially in Brazil. A further £100 million was set aside to compensate victims of the pensions mis-selling, and £58 million for a write-down of leases following tax changes.

Sir Brian said the bank's exposure to South-East Asia was just £600 million, or 0.4 per cent of group assets.

Tempus page 31

Regulatory battle kills E&Y's union with KPMG

By Robert Bruce

THE audacious bid to create the world's largest accountancy firm by merging Ernst & Young and KPMG has been abandoned.

The merger was called off by Ernst & Young's American partnership when it realised how difficult the regulatory battles in Europe were likely to be. The accountants were also unsettled by the negative reaction of many clients.

Colin Sharman, chairman of KPMG, said: "We were overwhelmed by the regulatory process."

Ernst & Young's international executive committee met in Grand Cayman for a week and, according to one partner, "it became obvious that a combination of regulatory opposition and client dissatisfaction" had doomed the process.

Partners at KPMG in London said the Americans had been startled the proposals had not been nodded through both by the American and the European regulators.

The American partnerships had voted for the merger in December and thought all was well. As one UK partner said: "The Americans took the view 'we did it at Christmas', and were stunned that the European Commission took the merger proposals to a second phase of investigations."

Once it was realised it was going to take until May before a decision would be made then all the other problems in a merger process started to weigh much more heavily.

Nick Land, UK senior partner at Ernst & Young, said client reaction had been a factor. "The most negative reactions from clients were in the UK," he said. "But that reaction was tending to spread around the world."

The merger would have created a firm with fees of more than £11 billion worldwide and was first put forward last October in a bid to leapfrog the merger proposals which had been announced in September by Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand. That merger also faces a lengthy regulatory passage in Europe.

The Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand merger also faces the same turbulent reaction from clients. At a meeting last week between their senior partners and the 100 Group of Finance Directors the reaction was said to have been one of fury over the proposed merger.

Ian Brindle, senior partner at Price Waterhouse, said he was convinced the merger with Coopers would not suffer the same fate as the Ernst & Young and KPMG deal.

"We don't have the ridiculous market share across Europe that they would have had. It didn't stand a cat in hell's chance. They cobbled it together and it showed."

The overwhelming reaction to the news among UK partners at KPMG was relief. "We've got a lot of smiling partners here," said one.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5582.3	(+29.8)
Yield	2.92%	
FTSE All share	2595.85	(+11.24)
Nikkei	16791.01	(-383.92)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8338.21	(-31.39)*
S&P Composite	1018.36	(-5.78)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/16%*	(5 1/16%)
Long Bond	103 16/32*	(103 11/16)
Yield	5.87%*	(5.86%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/16%	(7 1/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	124 22	(124 1/4)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6345*	(1.6393)
London:		
$	1.6361	(1.6399)
DM	2.9855	(2.9674)
FFr	10.006	(9.9455)
SFr	2.3963	(2.3813)
Yen	205.10	(202.69)
£ Index	104.9	(104.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8235*	(1.8080)
FFr	6.1096*	(6.0610)
SFr	1.4637*	(1.4530)
Yen	125.30*	(124.65)
$ Index	108.7	(107.9)

Tokyo close Yen 124.67

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$15.30	(n/a)

GOLD

London close	$298.85	($298.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Auditors' $1.8bn BCCI setback

By Jason Nisse

ERNST & YOUNG received a nasty surprise yesterday when a $1.8 billion (£1.1 billion) legal action arising out of the 1991 collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was resuscitated by the Court of Appeal.

The negligence case was brought by Deloitte & Touche, liquidators of BCCI, and involves one of the bank's three main operating companies, BCCI (Overseas), registered in the Cayman Islands.

Though this operation was audited by Price Waterhouse the liquidators argued the problems should have been seen by BCCI's group auditors, Ernst & Whinney, which later merged with Arthur Young.

In the High Court 13 months ago, Mr Justice Laddie threw the case out, but the Court of Appeal overturned that ruling yesterday and refused to allow Ernst & Young leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Nick Land, senior partner of Ernst & Young, said he was disappointed by the ruling but added: "I am confident this claim will fail when the facts are fully examinined at trial."

The move brings to more than $3 billion the level of claims against Ernst & Young for its auditing of BCCI. Deloitte is also suing Price Waterhouse and the Bank of England as a result of the collapse. A £600 million claim against the Bank was thrown out last year but Deloitte has leave to appeal before July.

Virgin accuses BA over pricing

VIRGIN ATLANTIC yesterday accused British Airways of predatory pricing and said BA was charging 15 per cent more for flights on routes where Virgin does not operate (Oliver August writes from New York).

In the first courtroom showdown in a five-year US legal battle between the two UK carriers, Virgin is seeking $1 billion (£600 million) in damages through an anti-trust action. BA is trying to get the case, which focuses on BA's discounts to corporate customers and travel agents, thrown out.

Judge Miriam Cedarbaum at the Federal Court in New York reserved her judgment on whether the case should be tried in front of a jury.

Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, said: "If BA's arrangements are allowed to stand, Virgin as a group will be damaged. It will slow down our airline's growth and the expansion to new routes."

John Warden, BA's lawyer, said: "Virgin is flying on every route they are allowed to fly on and as far as the alleged 15 per cent premium on routes goes — higher prices don't drive out competitors, they attract them like vultures. BA's market share is not remarkable at around 40 percent on the route Heathrow to New York, for a business where there are only four competitors."

Arculus to join IPC and utility

DAVID ARCULUS, who resigned suddenly as chief operating officer of United News & Media on Thursday, has lined up two new jobs, which he will take up as soon as Lord Hollick, United's chief executive, agrees a leaving date (Jason Nisse writes).

Mr Arculus, who is a former managing director of the Emap publishing group, is to become chairman of IPC Magazines, the recent £860 million buyout from Reed Elsevier, as well as chairman of Severn Trent, the water company, of which he is a non-executive director.

Although both jobs are part time, IPC said that Mr Arculus would have to leave United before he could take his IPC post. Dick Munton, a director of Cinven, the venture capital group that backed the IPC deal, said: "There isn't a direct conflict of interest. However, the job of chairman of IPC would not be compatible with a full-time executive post."

Mr Arculus joined United only ten months ago. His contract runs until April 1999. United said that discussions about letting him go early were proceeding, but Lord Hollick was abroad at present.

At Severn Trent, Mr Arculus is due to take over as chairman from Richard Ireland. His appointment has yet to be confirmed by the full board.

Marriott set to win hotel race

MARRIOTT International, the American hotel group, has emerged as the frontrunner to acquire the Inter-Continental chain after outbidding its UK rivals Ladbroke and Bass (Dominic Walsh writes).

Leisure analysts believe that the 211-strong chain, owned by Saison Group of Japan, could fetch up to $2.5 billion (£1.5 billion). Marriott is believed to have already lined up buyers for most of the 23 properties in which Saison owns all or part of the equity.

A successful bid by Marriott would be a big blow to Bass, which has long been searching for a deluxe hotel brand to complement its Holiday Inn business and which has amassed a £2 billion war chest.

Marriott is expected to retain Inter-Continental as an operating brand, although it is not clear what would happen to the 20-strong Forum brand. Observers believe that the 23 owned hotels, which include London's May Fair and Forum hotels, will be sold to US property investors, with Marriott retaining the management contracts.

Smith Barney, the US investment bank, is handling the sale for Saison. Saison had planned to float the chain on the New York Stock Exchange, but is thought to have decided on a sale after trade rivals and real estate investment trusts expressed interest. Ladbroke is thought to have been a late entrant to the bidding.

3 FREE issues of Moneywise

PLUS FREE 'Tax-Free Saving Guide' and 'Pension Planner' when you apply within 7 days.

The only personal finance magazine you'll ever need!

Now you can enjoy the UK's best-selling personal finance magazine FREE for 3 months. Take advantage of expert advice on how to spend, save, invest and plan for the future. Subscribe today by completing and returning the Direct Debit form below. We won't charge your account until you've received your 3 free issues. By then we believe you'll find it indispensable.

Save £8.40 on our annual cover price

What's more, MONEYWISE will start saving you money straight away – not only are your first 3 issues absolutely FREE but your subscription will be just £6 a quarter, a saving of £8.40 on the published annual price of £32.40 Why hesitate? Subscribe at once for a richer future.

YOU'LL GET INDEPENDENT AND JARGON-FREE ADVICE EVERY MONTH

- Expert advice from experts in banking, investment and pensions
- Best buys – that will truly enrich your spending
- Increased earning power– reliable tips from blue chip companies to alternative investments
- Frank information on your rights as a taxpayer, investor, mortgage and consumer
- Increased returns on your investments
- Monthly features and in-depth investigations
- Information on share movements and house prices

YES! Please send me the next 3 months issues of Moneywise – FREE!

OFFER CLOSES FEB 24

Instruction to your bank/building society.
Please fill in the whole form and send it back FREE to:
Moneywise, FREEPOST 34, 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HE

DIRECT Debit
Originator's Reference No. 625857

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society
To the Manager Bank or Building Society
Address
Postcode

3. Your name and address
Initials Surname
Address
Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

6. Reference number
12 001-4 5185

5. Branch Sort Code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

7. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay MD Publications Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.
I understand that this instruction may remain with MD Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

4. Bank/Building Society account number

Signature(s) Date

Banks/Building Societies may not accept instructions to pay Direct Debits from some types of account.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

This has not been a good week for captains of industry. Measured against our European partners — I won't mention France if you don't — the economy may appear to be in good shape and merger mania is keeping the City in bullish mood. But there is a growing band of FTSE 100 bosses who will not thank you for reminding them of the good news.

It all started going wrong when British Airways hit turbulence with third-quarter figures that missed the runway. City reaction was not helped when Robert Ayling disclosed £32 million of late charges for engine maintenance work.

Not to be outdone, BOC reported quarterly figures that were even further adrift of what the market anticipated. The Asia Pacific region was blamed; not the usual bad guys in South Korea and Indonesia this time but Australia. Well, what would you expect from a nation that no longer wants our Queen?

Profits fell at BP and were flat at Unilever, who each blamed so many foes they reminded one of farmers. For Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters Holdings, a disappointing financial performance was the least of his troubles. His company faces a grand jury investigation into alleged improper use of proprietary information owned by rival Bloomberg. Perversely, the City marked the company's shares up 10½p on the day.

The Government's campaign for a more flexible workforce and part-time employment received an unexpected boost when Sir Iain Vallance opted for a shorter working week at British Telecom.

After ten years at the helm, Sir Iain may have harboured hopes of timing the announcement that he was to become part-time chairman to coincide with bullish financial results. Alas, it was not to be, for although third-quarter profits exceeded £1 billion they would have looked positively anaemic by BT's normal standard in the absence of a £238 million fee associated with the MCI merger break-up. That is the fee MCI had to pay for agreeing to wed WorldCom instead, leaving BT at the altar.

How will BT fare now Sir Iain will devote no more than three days a week to the company he has served since the days when it was part of the old GPO? Sir Peter Bonfield, his number two, said: "Part-time is in the eye of the beholder. Our relationship will continue the same. It will be pretty much business as usual." It would be unworthy of BT shareholders to interpret this to mean Sir Iain can easily do in three days what he was doing in five.

One or two executives did have cause to smile this week. Stuart Rose, formerly with the now demerged Burton Group, resurfaced at Argos, eager to do battle with Great Universal Stores. He will mastermind the campaign against a hostile £1.6 billion bid by GUS, knowing that whatever the outcome he will be quids in.

Bo Goranson raised £126 million to take Intrum Justitia, the debt collection company where he was chairman, private. He will now experience from the other side just what it feels like to have to meet monthly repayments on time. Otherwise Industri Kapital, those nice Swedish venture capitalists, might send the lads round.

Martin Barrow

BT price accuracy criticised

BY CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH TELECOM clashed with Oftel, its watchdog, after Don Cruickshank, the director general of telecommunications, ordered BT to publish "an accurate and comprehensible" price list.

BT denied it had deliberately misled competitors and customers by making several serious omissions from its price list. Competitors can now sue BT.

In a damning statement, Mr Cruickshank said he was satisfied BT had clearly breached its licence and was likely to do it again.

BT said it was "disappointed" by Oftel's decision. "There is no evidence that any customer or competitor has suffered in any way," a spokesman said.

However, the company — which has to give 28 days' notice for a price change — admitted it had problems keeping its 1,600 page price list up to date.

☐ Oftel yesterday issued guidelines to broadcasters on charges for digital television.

Shares drop as Forfaiting disappoints

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in London Forfaiting, the trade finance company, tumbled more than 6 per cent yesterday after the company disappointed the markets by announcing lower than expected profits.

London Forfaiting said 1997 pre-tax profits were £38.5 million, just £600,000 higher than in the previous year, and attributed the flat returns to difficult trading conditions in South-East Asia.

The region's financial crisis contributed to an £8 million drop in the value of certain Asian assets, while turnover slumped by 24 per cent to £462 million.

However, Forfaiting's troubles in Asia were off-set to a large extent by growth in both export finance and syndicated lending in Europe. Turnover in European assets rose 70 per cent to £1.34 billion. Total turnover increased 22 per cent to £2.3 billion.

The company also said it had reached an agreement with the Inland Revenue in a dispute in taxes on its operations in Cyprus. Jack Wilson, chairman, declined to give details, but pointed out that the total tax charge for year was £7.4 million, against £10.3 million in 1996.

Mr Wilson said London Forfaiting would pay a final dividend of 6.3p, taking the total dividend to 12.3p, compared to 11.2p in the previous year. Earnings were 29.95p a share (27.01p last time).

He said: "The conditions which developed during the final quarter of last year appear to be dissipating and we are optimistic about prospects for the year."

He added: "The difficulties experienced by certain Asia economies will have a positive impact for the company in increasing in general terms the pricing of new transactions for good quality emerging market borrowers."

Tempus, page 31

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Tim Andrews, centre, the new finance director of Grosvenor Inns, with Gary Pettet, left, who has been promoted to chief executive, and Tim Thwaites, Grosvenor's chairman

Grosvenor Inns Slugs it out

GROSVENOR INNS, the pub operator, is to change its name to the Slug and Lettuce Group to reflect its decision to focus exclusively on its top brand (Dominic Walsh writes).

The Slug and Lettuce chain of 22 pubs is to be expanded to 35 by May 1999, and four remaining unbranded pubs are to be sold.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to November 29 fell to £137,000, from £1.1 million, after a £690,000 charge on disposals. Tim Thwaites, chairman, said that the sale in December of 19 pubs for £10.9 million would have a short-term impact on earnings.

Profits from the Slug and Lettuce estate were up by 24 per cent, to £1.7 million. The interim dividend, which is payable on April 3, is being held at 3.025p.

Gary Pettet has been promoted from managing director to chief executive. Sheila McKenzie, the director responsible for the Slug and Lettuce brand, is to step into his former post. Norman Allan, the finance director, is leaving, to be replaced by Tim Andrews, of Rea Brothers, the merchant bank.

Tesco teams up with gas supplier

TESCO yesterday announced the first link between a supermarket and the open gas market. The store is teaming up with Energi, the trading arm of Norweb, to offer customers the chance of earning loyalty card points on their fuel bills. The points, one for ever £1 spent on gas, are worth 1p off at Tesco checkouts.

Customers who switch their gas supply from British Gas to Energi can also expect to save up to 20 per cent on their gas bills. On an average bill of £240 a year, there would be Clubcard vouchers worth £2.40. Tesco said: "People have to buy their energy from somewhere, they have to buy their shopping. The Clubcard points are a bonus they wouldn't be getting otherwise."

Renault tops Fr200bn

RENAULT, the French carmaker, said its 1997 consolidated revenues had increased 12.9 per cent, or 11.53 per cent on a like-for-like basis, to Fr207.91 billion (£20.8 billion), the first time that sales have topped the Fr200 billion level. Renault is expected to report its full results on March 12 and said the turnover contribution of its car division amounted to Fr165.8 billion, up 13.6 per cent on 1996. An increase in unit sales outside France had more than offset the drop in its domestic market.

Jarvis wins rail deal

JARVIS, the building and rail maintenance group that has just been allowed to take over Fastline, yesterday won the £18 million contract to build the track for the Croydon Tramlink. Work on the light rail project begins in April and is due for completion by the end of January 1999. The work involves building almost 24 miles of new track, refurbishing five miles of existing railway and installing three miles of track in central Croydon. The network is due to be in service by the end of 1999.

Microvitec hits new low

SHARES in Microvitec, the technology group, fell from 12¾p to 8¾p, an all-time low, after the company said that it was in advanced talks to sell its display division because it was "experiencing financial difficulties". The quick sale is expected to raise an immediate £2 million, part of which will become an injection of capital into the company, with a further £1 million to follow. A further detailed announcement is expected on Monday.

ODI calls in receiver

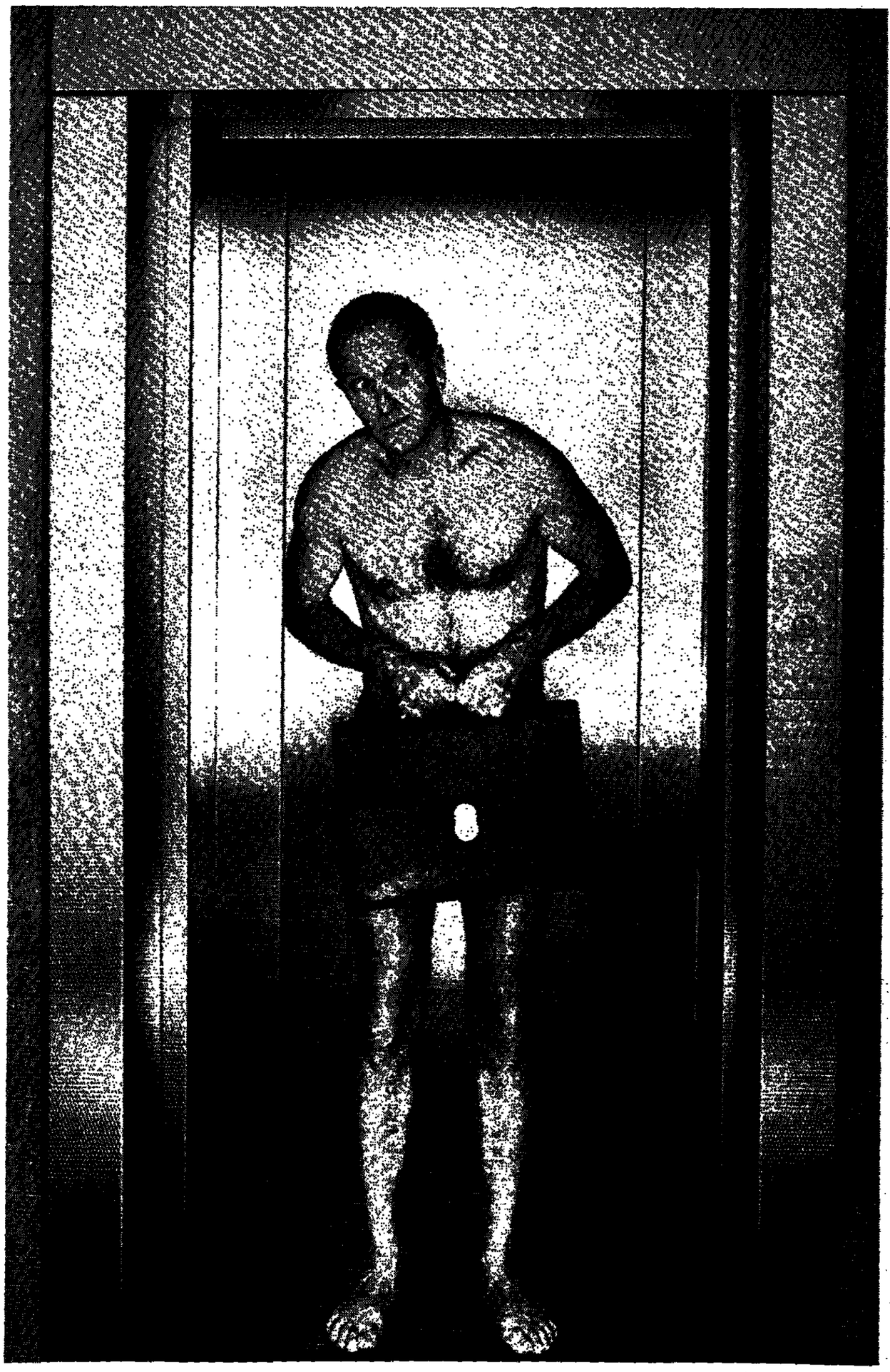
ON DEMAND INFORMATION, the financial publishing company based in Leeds, was placed in receivership yesterday. The group's shares were suspended at a price of 6½p some weeks ago when the company was valued at £3.6 million. On Demand, headed by former journalist Graham Poulter, was floated in 1993 with a market value of £40 million. In recent weeks Mr Poulter has been attempting to find a buyer for the troubled group.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.23	2.31
Austria Sch	2.596	2.629
Belgium Fr	64.67	65.71
Canada $	2.475	2.557
Cyprus Cypf	0.916	0.845
Denmark Kr	11.94	11.05
Finland Mkk	9.59	9.84
France Fr	10.45	9.67
Germany Dm	3.14	2.90
Greece Dr	493	457
Hong Kong $	13.48	12.26
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.16
Israel Shk	6.27	5.82
Italy Lira	3117	2880
Japan Yen	219.33	201.80
Malta	0.884	0.825
Netherlds Gld	3.548	3.283
New Zealand $	2.95	2.71
Norway Kr	12.69	12.05
Portugal Esc	317.03	295.00
S Africa Rd	8.77	7.81
Spain Pta	263.79	245.00
Sweden Kr	14.06	12.98
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.33
Turkey Lira	372037	352158
USA $	1.740	1.587

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

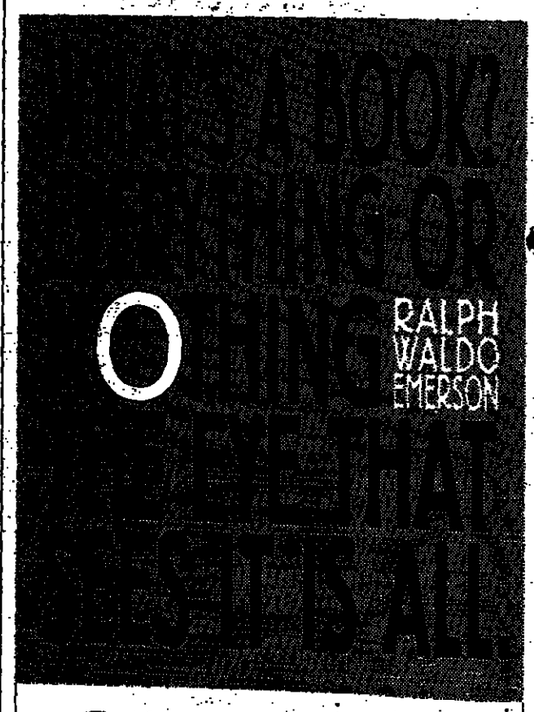
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Arnold's story
"No love was lost between the two camps, GEC and Plessey. Their conflict came to resemble a personal feud as much as a business competition . . ."
Exclusive pre-publication extract from Arnold Weinstock and the Making of GEC, by Stephen Aris. Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES



IT'S MONDAY. SOMEONE DIDN'T READ THE BUSINESS SECTION.

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS



The Times Literary Supplement is the indispensable weekly review of the world of literature, politics, history and the arts.

To take advantage of our special subscription rates, simply phone the TLS Credit Card Hotline now, on 0708 378379.

ENTERTAINING CHALLENGING STIMULATING ENJOYABLE TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

The real euro war begins

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Eurosceptics have begun to rattle their tins to raise the funds for a "Save the pound" campaign. Many business luminaries have been prepared to express their qualms over EMU and do battle, through the correspondence columns, with those who favour Britain joining the single currency. Now, with the euro fast approaching reality, they have decided that increasingly acrimonious letters will not suffice. An organised campaign, financed by a £10 million fighting fund, is their aim, and with the muscle of the likes of Lord Hanson and Sir Rocco Forte, that should be easily achievable.

But in spite of the jingoism of their working title, the movement will be most effective if it can concentrate attention on the practicalities, rather than the politics, of the single currency.

Perhaps we should not be entirely surprised that the European Commission itself seems already to be having problems with the practical application of a single European currency. With the first coins due to be minted this year, the Commission has approved a design which has the remarkable effect of making the 20 cent and 50 cent coins indistinguishable to vending machines.

Those companies which operate the seven million machines planted across Europe have a sneaky feeling that their customers may favour using the lower denomination coin even when the price of a chocolate bar or drink might demand the higher one. Experience, I fear, has taught them to expect the worst of slot-machine users.

The Swedes are being blamed for this potentially disaster. Sensitive Swedish skins react unfavourably to nickel and their emissaries persuaded the Commission that the 20 cent piece should be cast instead in a copper alloy, imaginatively known as Nordic gold. The result was to change the weight of the coin so that it became indistinguishable, in the sensors of the vending machines, from the more valuable 50 cent piece.

The machine operators spotted the problem, and now the coinage is back on the drawing board, but the episode highlights the fact that practicalities are far down the list of concerns for those working their way towards EMU. The millennium bug is a mere gnat by comparison with the stag beetle size bill that preparing for the Euro will bring.

As the Stock Exchange has acknowledged in its decision to trade top shares in euros as well as sterling, a new currency is going to be launched, albeit in Nordic gold. But Britain and its businesses are well practised in coping with foreign currencies. What needs to be discussed fully is whether we will benefit from swapping the pound for the euro and a growing number of businessmen and politicians appear to be having doubts on that front.

One hundred and fifty German economists can be wrong but this week they added their voices to the loud chorus trying to counter Herr Kohl's enthusiasm for the project. With luck, the real debate may be about to start.

Steady Eddie deserves better

The continuing official silence over the reappointment of Eddie George hovers on the brink of farce. The Governor of the Bank of England has made perfectly clear his desire to serve a second term, his tenure so far being generally judged a big contributor to the country's strong economic performance. What is more, there is no hint of a viable alternative candidate. If, when he came into office, the Chancellor really did harbour ideas of promoting Gavyn Davies, the Goldman Sachs economist, to the role, he must certainly have abandoned the plan after a welter of adverse comment.

But Mr George remains dangling in limbo over his future. He does not deserve such treatment, having already had to overcome the initial public humiliation that he was put through when the gung-ho Chancellor first arrived at Number 11 and omitted to mention to the Governor that, while he intended to grant the Bank independence, he would also be stripping it of a goodly proportion of its powers.

The reluctance to declare that Mr George will be serving another five-year-term is said to be causing some extra tension in the already taut relationship between numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street. The City has made clear its support for Eddie George from the days of his first contretemps with the Chancellor and Tony Blair has no wish to cause unnecessary disquiet in the Square Mile. It is his Chancellor who will not be rushed into confirming the reappointment.

Now that Mr Blair has recruited former Treasury high-flyer Jeremy Heywood to his private office, he will, no doubt, be hoping for useful insights into Mr Brown's operations.

There are suggestions that Mr Brown wants certain practical issues over how the Bank operates sorted out before he agrees to Mr George's second term, but while it may be that the Treasury and the Bank still have a little haggling to do over where Bank-generated profits should go, that need not preclude an official nod to the Governor's continuing reign.

Although he is secure at least until the summer, the current ambiguity over his position creates unnecessary uncertainty and speculation. And the question marks do not rest just over the head of the Governor. In two weeks' time, the contracts of the members of the Court of the Bank come to an end. It would be ungracious in the extreme to announce the new make-up of the Court without naming their Governor.

One merger down, one to go

Client power, allowed to flower by the infinite delay casued by regulatory authorities all round the world, has brought common sense to the partners of KPMG and Ernst & Young. That is one of the unsung benefits of merger regulation. It gives time for the dust to settle.

The second of the mega accountancy mergers did not seem to have the managerial drive of that planned between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand. But the logic against merging applies to them too. Merging any two of the big six would ultimately and logically lead to consolidation into a big three. The remaining big firms could not provide the service required by multiple clients in the sort of deals that now characterise global business.

Sadly, this truth is likely to carry even less clout in PW and C&L after the collapse of what they always considered to be a me-too spoiler. Without the even bigger merger of KPMG and E&Y, they will reckon their chances of passing the regulatory hurdles are much greater. After all, many leading accountants thought both would get through comfortably. And the commercial advantage of bringing together the two relatively smaller firms may appear greater for partners.

Fortunately, many partners will be envying their counterparts at KMPG and E&Y this weekend. Many clients will be envying rivals who employ firms not merging. Client and partner power may yet prevail.

Persuasive

SHAREHOLDERS in Argos should see the official offer documents from GUS on Monday. The likelihood of a white knight rescue is thin, so new chief executive Stuart Rose may need an imaginative approach to explain why GUS should pay more or quit. But since he managed to persuade Argos to pay him a £180,000 signing on fee, having been on the jobs market for many months, his negotiating talents should not be underestimated.

Profit drop predicted as ISA expands

ISA International, the computer products supplier, is acquiring John Heath & Co, a stationery office products wholesaler, for £29 million. In 1996 the business earned an operating profit of £4 million on turnover of £98.7 million in 1996.

ISA announced yesterday that it expects pre-tax profits to fall to £6.2 million (£7.87 million) in the year to December 31. The total dividend will be 3.29p (2.86p) a share. The shares rose 2½p to 110p.

Tempus, page 31

PW tax forecast

Price Waterhouse, the accountant, forecasts that the Chancellor will cut the lowest rate of income tax to 10 per cent in next month's Budget. PW predicts that the Government will phase out Miras, put up personal allowances, but not increase the threshold for the 40 per cent rate. Tax avoidance is also likely to come under scrutiny. Capital gains tax could be subject to reform.

Thomson up

Thomson-CSF, the French defence electronics group, recorded sales of Fr38.5 billion (£3.9 billion) last year, a 6.2 per cent rise on the previous year. Thomson, which is undergoing a restructuring that will see the state shareholding reduce from 58 per cent, said the rise would have been 5.3 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Fourth-quarter sales rose from Fr12.6 billion to Fr13.5 billion.

Alphameric fall

Shares of Alphameric fell 8p to 38p yesterday after the supplier of computer support systems gave warning that pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 would be "substantially below market expectations", mainly because of a deferral of two large multimedia system orders. The company had been expected to earn profits of £1.8 million, (£1.1 million).

ING post

ING, the Dutch bank, is to appoint Cornelis Herkstroter to its supervisory board from May 8. Mr Herkstroter, who is to succeed ING's current supervisory board chairman in May 1999, is chairman of Royal Dutch and the committee of managing directors of the Royal Dutch/Shell group.

GEC's war chest grows to £1.2bn after disposals

BY ADAM JONES

GEC has a £1.2 billion war chest at its disposal after yesterday completing the streamlining of its industrial group.

The sale of Plessey Semiconductors will increase pressure for a bold move to strengthen GEC's hand in the restructuring of European defence companies.

GEC is selling the chipmaker for $225 million (£137 million), completing a disposal programme announced last July. The sale to Mitel Corporation, of Canada leaves the group with about £1.2 billion cash to pursue acquisitions.

GEC, which lost out in the bidding for the Siemens Plessey defence electronics business, is looking hard at the US and there has been speculation that ITT's defence division is a possible target.

The deal concludes the sale of non-core assets from its UK industrial group announced by Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, GEC's managing director, last summer. GEC, which is focusing on its defence and specialist electronics activities, said that it has now received the £300 million it had set as a target for the programme.

Plessey Semiconductors is based in Swindon, and has sites at Oldham, Plymouth and Lincoln. It designs and makes semiconductors for personal computers, mobile telephones and consumer goods. In the year to March 31, 1997, it made profits of £7.2 million on turnover of £215.5 million.

Peter Burke, a spokesman for Mitel, said that it had bought Plessey Semiconductors to get access to its chip technology. Mitel's fast-growing semiconductor division makes components that help to provide the backbone of the telecommunications network. It has a manufacturing facility in Wales and has other sales sites in the UK.

Mr Burke said that it was too early to say whether the purchase would lead to job losses in Plessey Semiconductors, which employs about 2,000.

Before the Plessey deal, the most recent GEC disposal was Marconi Instruments, a maker of electronic measurement equipment. It was sold to IFR Systems, of the US, for £65 million last week. The other disposals from the industrial group under the programme announced last July are distribution and trading companies in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, and Majec Aviation, an air chartering business.

Lord Simpson said: "This successful conclusion to the disposal programme announced last July establishes a sound base from which GEC can grow in a focused and purposeful way."



Chris Swan, chairman of Finelist, the car parts distributor

Finelist in deal for car parts maker

BY GEORGE SIVELL

FINELIST, the car components distribution group, yesterday won agreement for a £38.4 million agreed bid for Independent Parts, the manufacturer and supplier of replacement parts.

The deal is a coup for Gartland Whalley and Barker, the venture capital group, which formed Independent Parts in 1991 and has a 27 per cent stake. GWB will receive £9.75 million from an investment of £1.34 million. Independent Parts Group was floated at £20 million on the stock market in 1994.

Chris Swan, chairman of Finelist, said the takeover will increase the company's share of the UK exhaust market and enhance earnings in the first full financial year to June 1999.

He added: "The acquisition fits our strategy of acquiring businesses which are earnings enhancing, complementing our strong organic growth."

Finelist distributes, retails and markets auto-parts and accessories from 685 sites.

Tempus, page 31

Barclaycard bids to hold customers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

BARCLAYCARD is targeting big spenders in its efforts to beat off US competition.

It is waiving its annual fee and dropping its borrowing rates for selected, high-spending customers.

From Monday Barclaycard will reduce the APR for cardholders who spend £300 or more in a month and will waive the annual fee of £12 if they spend £5,000 or more in a year on their card.

Barclaycard has attracted criticism because its standard APR of 22.9 is three times that of some of its rivals.

The card company faces stiff competition from the likes of MBNA, which has built up market share on strong affinity programmes and low interest rate offers for balance transfers.

Weekend Money, page 64

Powerscreen chief likely to survive

BY ADAM JONES

SHAY McKEOWN may keep his job at the helm of Powerscreen after investors were told he represented the best opportunity for rebuilding its battered share price.

There had been speculation that Mr McKeown would have to quit as chief executive after the discovery of accounting irregularities at the engineering group, which is based in Northern Ireland.

Powerscreen faces a £46.7 million write-off to sort out the accounts of its Matbro subsidiary. Independent auditors are still poring over Matbro's books, with a licence to review the whole company if they wish, the company said.

Yesterday, Powerscreen faced institutional shareholders in Dublin. One shareholder said Mr McKeown was likely to keep his job, although the fate of Barry Cosgrove, the finance director, is less certain in the medium term. Patrick Dooey, the executive in charge of the Matbro subsidiary has already resigned.

The shareholder said the board was not yet able to give full explanations of the timing of the irregularities, nor any possible implications for the other Powerscreen businesses, since the auditors' review is still under way.

The irregularities occurred after machines were mispriced in a bid to maintain market share in Europe. Faulty new designs were rushed out, incurring heavy warranty costs.

Unauthorised discounts had been given and the recording of bills of exchange was "inaccurate and misleading". The shares tumbled from 552½p to 254p after the revelations. They closed at 245½p yesterday, up from 240½p.

Merrydown shares fall as talks end

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Merrydown, the cider maker still suffering from a disastrous foray into the alcopops market, lost more than 10 per cent of their value yesterday after confirmation that the group had terminated bid talks.

In early trading, the shares hit a record low of 40p, before recovering to close down 7p at 47½p, valuing the group at £5.2 million. A year ago, the shares were more than 100p.

The company said that it had pulled out of takeover talks with unnamed suitors after it became clear that any offer was unlikely to reflect the value of the core Merrydown cider brand. It said that it was now in discussions with third parties with a view to raising new equity finance.

The board is to make a further statement on strategy in a month's time.

SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER

Enjoy the drama. Be drenched by the experience. Hear music as it was meant to be.

Stop listening to drizzle and start drowning in sound. Begin by ☎ FREEPHONING 0500 101501 or complete and return the freepost coupon below.

By return, we will send you a copy of MUSIC AT HOME: The Ultimate Guide, telling you all you need to know about the very best in audio and home entertainment equipment. In only 48 pages you will find out where to begin, what to choose, and how to keep within your budget.

It is a difference you will appreciate.



Please send me my FREE copy of MUSIC AT HOME - The Ultimate Guide (UK only)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

POST CODE .....

Musicat Home TIM02, Freepost LV1747, Abingdon, OX14 4YQ

WARNING: THIS GUIDE WILL DRAMATICALLY ENHANCE YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE

Exchange will run parallel order book in 120 shares from 1999

Top UK shares to trade in euros

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE London Stock Exchange wants to trade the top British shares in euros from the start of monetary union in January.

From January 4, 1999, when the exchange reopens after the four-day break across Europe, a parallel euro order book would be opened in the 120 UK stocks already traded electronically. All of them are or have been constituents of the FTSE 100 share index.

The new proposal is contained in a consultative document about EMU, building on responses to an earlier LSE report last June. UK investors are not expected to want to trade in anything but sterling initially. The exchange wants to cater for new markets that are expected to develop even while sterling remains separate from the euro.

Continental and foreign investors are likely to trade more in top European stocks, which are already being brought together in new shares indices. UK shares make up 106 of Europe's top 300 companies by market value.

The Exchange reckons these overseas investors will want to buy and sell British companies in the euro indices in euros. Starting a parallel market in London will forestall such a market being started on the Continent.

By splitting trade in top shares, the parallel order books are likely to cut liquidity again, making price movements more jerky.

This happened when electronic trading was started alongside traditional London methods last year. But there could be some a new arbitrage trade between the two markets to exploit short-term currency movements.

Outside the top 120, all other UK stocks will be traded only in sterling. The London exchnage can already handle trade in 36 currencies on foreign stocks quoted on Seaq International.

Lowest Line Rental £14.46 Nokia 3110 Free Free Free Free Free Free Odyssey

هكذا من الأصل

Bankers and old rockers aim to reap the play-it-again sum

Pop music, pubs and Sharon Stone could all become income flows via bonds, says

Martin Waller



David Bowie's "Bowie bonds" led the way for securitisation of the future earnings of musicians and writers

It is now, incredibly, more than four decades since Elvis Presley first took a walk down Lonely Street to Heartbreak Hotel, and an art form that always celebrated the ephemeral emotions of youth is well into middle age.

A number of sober, sensible investors are now being asked to gamble that rock will survive, like some of its practitioners, to pick up its bus pass. Last year David Bowie sold the rights to his back catalogue in a deal that requires faith that songs such as Space Oddity and Let's Dance will still be listened to a decade from now.

Bowie was the first to package his earlier hits to be used as security on a bond placed with institutional investors. It was an innovatory idea, the theory being that the interest paid on the bond could be met out of future royalties.

The bonds succeeded beyond anyone's expectations on Wall Street, where the deal was put together by a small New York investment bank, Fahnestock & Co. The only question now is which rock relic will be the next to repeat the exercise.

The most likely is Rod Stewart. He is reported to be working with Nomura in New York on a deal to raise money through loans based on future royalties. Nomura is refusing to confirm or deny the reports, but the bank does admit it has set aside a large sum to be used on securitising loans on intellectual property.

Other rock stars are known to be considering the same process. Earlier this week a music industry mogul announced a link with Prudential Securities of the US to create a fund specifically to engage in entertainment and intellectual property securitisation. Charles Koppelman's career stalled last year when he quit as head of EMI's North American division with an estimated £30 million payoff. Now Prudential is providing CAK Universal Credit Corporation with initial seed capital of $200 million in credit, and the new company expects to manage $1 billion in financings in its first year of operation. This is the biggest money injected into the field so far; the Bowie bond, covering royalties from the songs over a period of ten years, was for just $55 million.

Securitisation as a concept is well advanced in the US and is known in Great Britain, where Nomura's London arm is generally reckoned to have pioneered the idea through deals such as the £696 million purchase of Angel Trains, the rolling-stock leasing company, and the 1995 acquisition of 1,800 pubs from Grand Metropolitan and Foster's.

In the US, deals have been done based on income streams from credit card receipts, health club membership fees and even the produce of Oregon forests. In Britain, they have generally been limited to physical assets.

The deal, as practised by Nomura, is roughly this. The asset is bought by the bank. Bonds are issued paying a fixed rate of interest over a given number of years, after which they can be redeemed at face value. The amount raised when they are issued may or may not cancel out the money that the bank has paid for the asset.

The interest is paid to bondholders by the bank out of the income that the assets produce. The ownership remains always with the bank: the trick is to ensure that income matches interest due. This last can be clearly forecast, but future income streams are harder to assess.

Practitioners such as Nomura say that most of the hard work is, therefore, done at due diligence stage, when the bank must satisfy itself that the income will be there. Any downside should be reflected in the pricing of the bonds. Pubs, say, could be affected by changes in the drink-drive laws. Rolling stock's income could be hit by the actions of the rail regulator. Property assets can burn down, and so must be fully insured.

More difficult to put together are deals that are based on intellectual property assets, whether a back catalogue of songs or, as has been speculated, of books by a best-selling author such as John Grisham or Stephen King, both of whose works are ideal for securitisation, according to enthusiasts for the process. Actors such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sharon Stone, who have valuable film back catalogues, are also known to be interested.

The attractions of the deal to the artist are clear. He or she gets a one-off payment now while giving up some future royalty payments. In the case of the Bowie deal, the songs revert to him after a given period, but there is no reason why artists should not give away their rights in perpetuity if they can find a buyer.

For the bank issuing the bonds, the risks are much higher, because the ultimate basis for the income stream is fickle public taste. Companies such as EMI have been building up back catalogues of rights to song royalties for years, and such assets have risen in value to an extent unthinkable when the songs were written.

When Elvis Presley died in 1977, one commentator referred to his death as "a shrewd career move". This may have sounded cynical, even for the music industry, but in a way it turned out to be true — Presley was virtually broke when he died, yet his daughter has just inherited £125 million. The death of your idol does not mean that your securitised bonds become worthless; news coverage and tribute albums will stimulate interest in the back catalogue. Likewise, the adoption of an almost-forgotten hit by a big advertising campaign can put it back into the charts.

The way rock musicians' bonds are typically structured, any upside in the form of higher than expected sales goes to the artist or his or her estate. The bank issues the bonds, and the bond-holders are entitled to a fixed rate of interest. Only sufficient royalty income from record sales to cover that interest bill, plus amortisation, is payable by the artist. The bank's profit stems from the rate at which it borrows money on the wholesale market to fund the deal.

However, any downside, if the artist ceases to be fashionable for any reason, is also with the bank. Consider the child sex allegations levelled against Michael Jackson some years ago. If such a charge were to be proven against an entertainer, it could end your artist's career overnight — and those back catalogue sales might suffer, too.

Koppelman says he cannot think of any occasion when an artist's catalogue sales have been affected by personal misbehaviour. He also does not accept much risk of declining fashionability, over the timescales he is considering.

"I have spent my whole life understanding these assets," he said. "When you have a good history, it always portends a good future. Listen to the radio, and you are hearing music not just of today but from 15, 20 years ago."

Koppelman believes that earnings from established back catalogues can be forecast easily by reference to current earnings. His theory certainly holds over the past couple of decades; experience alone will show the strength of the market for old compositions 15 years hence.

This uncertainty is why there are only a limited number of artists whose work might be suitable for securitisation. In addition to Bowie and Rod Stewart, Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, Sting, the Rolling Stones, Sir Elton John and Dire Straits are the names usually mentioned, although these last two are reported to have said they are not interested for now. The releases must go back a long way — one-hit wonders need not apply. They must be sufficiently bankable that the sums involved are worth it, although there is no reason why several artists, perhaps sharing the same record label, should not be lumped into the same bond issue — a sort of investment trust of old rockers.

Two factors are driving the process. One is the entry of rock music, through MTV and satellite channels, into new markets around the world that are then hungry for product, whether new or old.

The other is the surprising longevity of the discs themselves, and their ability to attract a new generation of consumers. Andy Pemberton, associate editor of Q magazine, says that today's listeners are much broader in their musical tastes than their predecessors. "Young people want to buy old records," he says. "It's really weird. Everything's fine — everybody has much broader tastes than they have ever had before." His magazine ran a poll recently to see what were the favourite albums of its comparatively young readership. Number one was the modish Radiohead; number two was Sergeant Pepper.

Had you walked into the most happening, trendiest club in the country in 1977, say, with a copy of Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon under your arm, you would have been lucky to have escaped with your life. Twenty years on, the record is, says Pemberton, selling again to teenagers and twenty-somethings. It is still among the top three highest-selling albums of all time. And Pink Floyd, although barely functioning as a recording or touring entity, are top of the securitisation pops.

"Money/It's a gas ..."

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

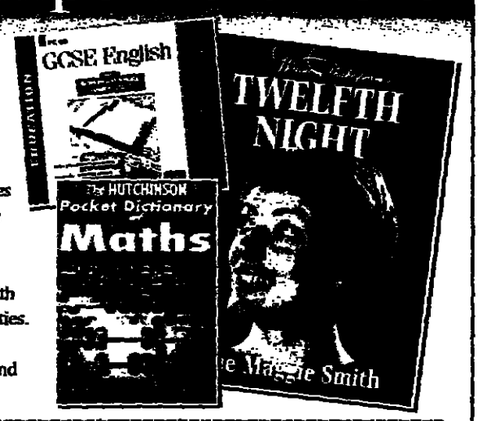
FREE GCSE CD-Rom, pocket book and audio tape worth £20

This week *The Times* is offering readers a FREE English language CD-Rom, a FREE Hutchinson maths pocket dictionary and a FREE audio cassette of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The three products are worth a total of £20. All you pay is 45p per item, or £1.35 for all three, to cover postage.

You can also order, at greatly reduced prices, a further seven GCSE CD-Roms, including *English Reading and Writing Grades C-G, Physics Energy, Radioactivity and the Universe* and *Physics Waves, Forces and Motion*; seven Hutchinson pocket reference books, including an encyclopoedia; and 11 audio cassettes of abridged Shakespearean plays, recorded with international actors and actresses in the Sixties.

THE TIMES FREE GCSE STUDY AIDS TOKEN

● To obtain the FREE offers, simply collect four out of six tokens published this week and attach them to the order form below.



THE TIMES/BVG ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send it with four tokens, plus your credit card details or a cheque/postal order payable in pounds sterling, to BVG Arflo Ltd, to: The Times/Study Aids Offer, Unit 6 Industrial Estate, Brecon, Powys, Wales LD3 8LA. Closing date for receipt of orders is April 3, 1998. This free offer is strictly limited to one application per household. You may only request one copy of the free CD-Rom, audio cassette and pocket reference book (readers in the Republic of Ireland must pay 83p postage, by credit card only, for each free item). The prices below apply to orders from readers in the UK only and include p&p. Readers in the RoI and overseas should call +44 1874 611 633 ext 251 for a quotation for p&p. Allow 28 days for delivery.

QTY	GCSE CD-ROMs	RRP	YOU PAY
____	100 English Reading & Writing Grades A-D	£9.99	45p p&p
____	101 English Reading & Writing Grades C-G	£9.99	£5.99
____	102 English Spelling Punctuation & Grammar	£9.99	£5.99
____	103 Physics Energy, Radioactivity & the Universe	£9.99	£5.99
____	104 Physics Waves, Forces and Motion	£9.99	£5.99
____	105 Physics Electricity and Magnetism	£9.99	£5.99
____	106 GCSE Maths	£29.99	£14.99
____	107 GCSE Physics	£29.99	£14.99
QTY	Hutchinson Pocket Reference Books	RRP	YOU PAY
____	108 Hutchinson Pocket Maths	£4.99	45p p&p
____	109 Pocket Biology	£4.99	£3.49
____	110 Pocket Chemistry	£4.99	£3.49
____	111 Pocket Computing & Multimedia	£4.99	£3.49
____	112 Pocket Physics	£4.99	£3.49
____	113 Pocket Science	£4.99	£3.49
____	114 Pocket Encyclopedia 1998	£5.99	£3.99
____	115 Hutchinson Encyclopedia 1998	£40	£17.99
QTY	The Living Shakespeare Collection	RRP	YOU PAY
____	116 Twelfth Night	£5.99	45p p&p
____	117 King Lear	£5.99	£3.49
____	118 A Midsummer Night's Dream	£5.99	£3.49
____	119 Hamlet	£5.99	£3.49
____	120 Othello	£5.99	£3.49
____	121 Macbeth	£5.99	£3.49
____	122 All's Well That Ends Well	£5.99	£3.49
____	123 Anthony and Cleopatra	£5.99	£3.49
____	124 As You Like It	£5.99	£3.49
____	125 Much Ado About Nothing	£5.99	£3.49
____	126 The Taming of the Shrew	£5.99	£3.49
____	127 The Tempest	£5.99	£3.49

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other ____ Initials ____

Surname ____

Address ____

Postcode ____ Day tel ____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT Card no:

Expiry date ☐☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐

Name on card ____

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from the above

Signature ____

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐
Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times ☐

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by Times Newspapers Ltd, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

Rose expected to blossom as Argos chief

IN THE HOT SEAT

FOR A man who has worked for only two employers in a 27-year career, Stuart Rose has found the last few days full of dramatic change. At the weekend Rose, who resigned from Burton Group last June after a row about management succession, agreed to "drop everything" and become acting chief executive of Argos, the discount retailer fighting a £1.6 billion bid from Great Universal Stores.

On Monday Rose was introduced to his fellow directors and the press. On Tuesday and Wednesday he met his City advisers and leading insititutional investors. On Thursday he managed to travel to Milton Keynes to see the people who will be working for him. "They'll like him," said one City analyst. "He's a laid-back guy and I'm sure he's good to work with."

By Thursday evening Rose was back in London for dinner with his old friend — Terry Green, the chief executive of Debenhams. The dinner was the first chance Rose had to relax all week. But then former colleagues say he thrives on pressure. He has little time for a social life, spending his free hours either with his two children or the private plane in which he has a half share — like his former Burton boss, John Hoerner, he is a keen pilot. However Rose does enjoy trying out the top restaurants, and may find the choice in Milton Keynes a little limited.

"We both like eating out a lot and we both like fine wines," Green says, dismissing City rumours of a rift between the two over Rose's departure from Burton. "Otherwise we are both quite boring."

Rose arrived at Argos to find the catalogue retailer was in a desperate situation. The GUS bid caught the group in a bind, as its chief executive, Mike Smith, had recently been diagnosed with cancer and was unable to lead the fight. Rose was available, having spent the last few months being interviewed for a series of jobs — including that of group chief executive at WH Smith — and stepped into the breech. He was turned down, in a highly public way, for the Smith's job. "I'd rather it didn't leak but I'm not unhappy," says Rose. "Two people can go to a party, but they don't necessarily tango. I wanted to be the chief executive of an independent retailer and there are only a couple of those jobs going."

If Rose's appointment was a surprise, then his pay package was more so. He has been given a £180,000 signing-on package, a contract paying £320,000 a year and a £40,000 salary supplement. If Argos does not survive the bid he will pick up about £600,000 for 60 days' work. And this comes on top of his £584,000 payoff from Burton last year and an estimated £2 million worth of options in Arcadia and Debenhams, the two companies created by the Burton demerger.

"As far as jobs go, this has got to be the easiest," said one City analyst. "If you put a monkey on a stick and call it chief executive of Argos, it will be half a million richer by the end of the year."

Rose knows the job may be shortlived, but he is an ambitious man and says: "I will bust a gut to keep this company independent". He admits he knows little about catalogue retailing, laughing: "You probably know more about GUS or Argos than I do." But argues this might be a strength. "When I went in to run the meat department of Marks & Spencer, I had not seen a carcass carcase before. Often I think someone coming in with a fresh pair of eyes sees things better."

It was Rose's ambition which forced him to resign from Burton, where he ran the Principles, Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop operation which is now part of what is known as Arcadia. He came to Burton in 1989 after 18 years at M&S, where he joined as a management trainee.

John Hoerner brought him into Debenhams in 1989 but it was Lawrence Cooklin, Hoerner's short lived predecessor as chief executive of Burton, who took Rose over to the high street side. He initially ran Evans, the outsize clothes chain, before taking control of first Dorothy Perkins and then Principles. Rose was responsible for making supermodel Helena Christiansen the face of Dorothy Perkins. "I never got to meet her, I regret to say."

STUART ROSE

1949: Born Hampshire
1954-1968: Educated in East Africa and at Bootham School, York
1972: Marks & Spencer, trainee
1987: M&S, Paris
1989: Debenhams
1991: Evans, then Dorothy Perkins
1996: Argos



Rose: dramatic changes

When Hoerner decided to demerge the two businesses, he also decided he would be chief executive of the multiples — a job Rose thought would go to him. Although Hoerner tried to persuade Rose to stay he resigned. "I'd had 25 odd years in retailing," says Rose. "I thought it was time I walked myself."

Few doubt that, given his chance, Rose will do a good job at Argos. Terry Green is convinced Rose would not have taken the post if he did not think he could fight off GUS. "Stuart is a driven man," he says. "Honest, with a lot of integrity."

JASON NISSÉ

Write stuff

SO significant an era has been the Jacques de Larosière chairmanship of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that it is to be marked by a lucrative essay competition. The Institute of International Finance, an unbrella body of financial institutions, has set up the Jacques de Larosière Essay in Global Finance, first prize $10,000, second prize $5,000, thereafter a mention in despatches. De Larosière's achievements at the EBRD temporarily escape me, I fear, but various big-wigs clearly think he is a good thing, and he and they, including our own Sir Jeremy Morse from Lloyds and Paul Volcker of the US, are judging the entries.

So 4,000 words maximum, please, in English by the end of May, on an issue of interest to the world banking community. Suggested subjects to avoid: "Why EMU is a Rotten Idea", "How Do We Stop the French Taking Over All the Best Banking Jobs?" and "The EBRD: a Licence to Waste Taxpayers' Money".

☐ *THE new hotel planned for London's County Hall, head of local government in the capital when we had any, will have eight private dining rooms, all named after personalities associated with County Hall. These are a colourful mix ranging across political, sexual and social boundaries. So we have Herbert Morrison, Queen Mary, Horace Cutler, and so on. But one name is missing. Ask anyone who they most closely associate with County Hall .... But he's not there. Newt fancier, left-wing firebrand turned after-dinner speaker, the Julian Critchley of the Labour Party — where is the Ken Livingstone room?*

Soap dish

PROCTER & Gamble, the US soap powder people, have always struck me as a pretty humourless bunch — although I suppose if you had spent as long as they have denying loony accusations of dabbling in Satanism it might try your sense of humour. So a pat on the back for chairman John Pepper, who was up for an award from the governor of the state of Ohio when an animal rights activist pushed a dish of tofu cream pie into his face, shouting: "Procter & Gamble poisons animals! Shame on you, John Pepper!" (Look, this is America, right? They make pies out of tofu, because animal activists aren't allowed to use cream. Dead animals, you know.) Pepper quipped: "This will be a memorable event for more reasons than one." And for the lady protester it was. They then took her off to jail.



☐ *ALMOST a year ago we brought you the tale of Mark Rollason, of Coventry, who picked up 1,000 extra reward points after Sainsbury's Bank managed to misspell his name on his cashcard. (So confident was the retailer that this could never happen that it had offered the extra points to anyone so treated.) Sainsbury's then hung its head in shame, and wrote him an apology. Name misspelt, of course. Now lightning has struck thrice, because Rollason has been on again. His mother applied for a Sainsbury's visa card. It came back in the name of "Rollaston". Alas, Sainsbury's says no free reward points this time, as the offer only applies to other sorts of accounts. Why not? "I don't know," admits a spokeswoman.*

To his credit

LADY readers, please talk among yourselves for a moment. Gentlemen, if you have forgotten the red roses, the champagne, the card or whatever, spare a moment's sympathy for John Eaton, managing director of Barclaycard, who is even as we speak *persona non grata* in the Eaton household. Barclaycard chose today to launch its differential rate service, which means you pay a mildly less extortionate rate on your card if you run up huge debts on it. And Eaton is required to do a batch of live interviews for the likes of *Money Box* on the subject. And February 14 is not only Valentine's Day, it is his wedding anniversary.

MARTIN WALLER

هكذا من الأصل



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Banks lead the way as investors prove selective

SHARE prices ended the week on a firm note encouraged by Wall Street's ability to extend its record-breaking run overnight.

Investors shrugged off gloomy thoughts about another rise in interest rates prompted by some bearish comments from the Bank of England quarterly inflation report earlier in the week. Once again the buying proved selective with attention focused on the financials.

The Dow Jones industrial average halved an earlier 67-point deficit, enabling the FTSE 100 index to close at its best of the day with a rise of 29.8 at 5,582.3. It reduced the fall on the week to 47.4. Total turnover reached 821.5 million shares.

There was a positive response, eventually, to full-year figures from **Lloyds TSB**, up 38p at 873p. The 30 per cent rise in the dividend and the prospect of cash flowing back to shareholders at some stage whetted fund managers appetites.

Woolwich, which is reporting next week, advanced 5½p to 369p. Profits are expected to come in flat at around £400 million but brokers say there is scope to hand cash back to shareholders and this has helped to underpin the share price. Also reporting next week is **Barclays**, up 30p at £18.86. Brokers are forecasting a downturn in profits after write-offs relating to the disposal of its BZW investment banking arm.

British Aerospace is also reporting next week. The price rose 15p to £17.13 amid reports that Airbus Industrie, of which it is a shareholder, is about to land a $4 billion (£2.44 billion) contract to supply aircraft to a group of South American airlines.

City speculators are also hoping BAe will take the opportunity to use the results to announce the sale of its remaining 21 per cent stake in Orange, the mobile-phone operator. Brokers are convinced the stake will be sold sooner, rather than later. Orange ran into early profit-taking, touching 349½p before finishing 3p easier at 358p. Reports from Brussels claim Orange has bid for the licence to operate Belgium's third mobile-phone network. Bids have to be in by Monday.

Recent high-flyer **Siebe** tumbled 54p to £11.30 as some investors took the view the shares were looking a little top-heavy.

Energy Group slipped 1½p to 773p. PacifiCorp, the US utility, has stepped up pressure on the British company's shareholders to accept the terms of its 765p revised offer.

Tadpole Technology continued to go from strength to strength with the price adding 8p to 34½p, stretching the lead on the week to 24p. Businessman Colin Blackbourn raised his holding in the workstation supplier to 1.9 million shares. The company also raised extra funds by issuing 2.56 million shares at 16p. Blackbourn has a track record of investing in small, struggling companies at just the right time and making a profit.

Microvitec was left nursing a loss of 5p at 7¾p after giving warning that it was experiencing financial difficulties. It is being forced to sell its displays division in order to provide an immediate cash injection of between £2 million and £3 million. In July last year, the group warned the market that the strong pound had hit trading so badly at the displays division that it had pushed the group into the red.

A profits warning hit **London Forfaiting** and left the price 26½p down on the day at 397½p. The import and export finance company has been hurt by the crisis in South-East Asia, forcing asset writedowns and holding back profits growth. Pre-tax profits came in at a record £38.5 million but brokers had originally pencilled in £42.5 million.

Alphameric finished 8p lower at 38p on the back of a profits warning. The multimedia systems specialist says profits for the year to March will be "substantially below" market expectations. It blames the deferral of two large contracts and consolidation within the marketplace.

The breakdown in bid talks left **Merrydown** 7p cheaper at 47½p. The troubled cidermaker said the talks had been going on since December, and broke down because neither side could agree a price. Merrydown may now turn to shareholders for extra cash.

A profits warning last year saw Merrydown shares almost halved. The move into the alcopops market, in order to counter falling cider sales, proved a mistake.

Chelsea Village rallied 6½p to 98p as former manager Ruud Gullit demanded to know the reason for his sacking. He claimed money was not the real issue despite requesting a new contract worth £2 million a year. **Hay & Robertson** also rallied 7p to 165½p. The clothing group has a £100,000 five-year worldwide contract with Gullit to market his own brand of leisurewear.

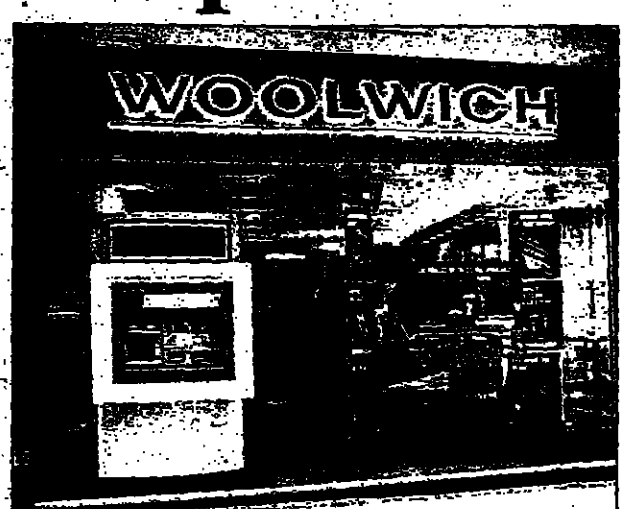
News of an agreed bid lifted **Independent Parts Group** 9p to 147½p. Finelist, the motor parts distributor, is offering 150p a share, valuing IPG at £38 million. Both sides have been in talks since the end of December.

AIM-listed **Gartland Whalley and Barker**, 1½p firmer at 117p, has agreed to sell its 27.1 per cent stake in IPG, raising £9.75 million. That means a book profit of £3.6 million on the deal. **Finelist** shed 5p at 373½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Longer dated issues enjoyed small gains in thin trading, but the shorter end of the market continued to ponder the prospect of a rise in interest rates after comments by the Bank of England this week.

It was suggested that further rate rises would be required to meet the Government's inflation target. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose three ticks to £124⁷⁄₃₂, while in the underlying cash market Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 also added three ticks at £109⁵⁄₈.

☐ **NEW YORK:** *Shares remained slightly weaker after throwing off much of their initial losses as profit-taking eased. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 31.39 points at 8,338.21.*



Hope of a cashback has underpinned the Woolwich price

Centrica was one of the heaviest traded stocks, with a hefty 27.17 million shares changing hands as the price retreated 1½p to 106½p. This followed news from the industry regulator indicating that more than a million households had switched to alternative gas supplier during the past two years.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
JBA Holdings	800p	-440p	Profits warning
Merrydown	47½p	-8½p	Bid talks breakdown
Alphameric	38p	-8p	Profits warning
Kingfisher	£10.53	+86p	Shares breach £10 level
Body Shop	112½p	-12p	Departure of US chief
Cookson	204p	+21p	Bid speculation
Orange	358p	+48p	BAe ready to sell 21% stake
Biocompatibles	149½p	-65½p	"Sell" recommendation
Tadpole Technology	34½p	+24½p	Colin Blackbourn raises stake

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	8338.21 (-31.39)
S&P Composite	1018.36 (-5.76)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16791.01 (-383.92)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10274.60 (-345.43)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	974.62 (+1.57)
Sydney:	
AO	2653.00 (-21.30)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4502.48 (-34.35)
Singapore:	
Straits	1552.69 (-47.60)
Brussels:	
General	15492.13 (+53.79)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3187.73 (+9.03)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1366.0 (+3.40)
London:	
FT 30	3440.2 (+17.7)
FTSE 100	5582.3 (+29.8)
FTSE 250	4990.2 (+6.3)
FTSE 350	2663.7 (+12.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2492.59 (+14.05)
FTSE All-Share	2595.85 (+11.24)
FTSE Non Financials	2571.64 (+9.67)
FTSE Fixed Interest	139.33 (+0.3)
FTSE Govt Secs	103.95 (+0.05)
Bargains	57528
SEAQ Volume	825.5m
US$	1.6365 (-0.0019)
German Mark	2.9848 (+0.0197)
Exchange Index	104.9 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5107
£:SDR	1.2067
RPI	159.5 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.7 Jan (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Athlone Extrusions	95	...
Bass B	95	...
Diageo B	520	+ 2½
Eurosov Energy	93½	...
Monsoon	193	...
Richards Group	60½	...
Sanctuary Warrants	4¼	- ¼

RIGHTS ISSUES

Minerva n/p (190)	12½	+ 1
Pentex Engy n/p (185)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Character Grp	213p (+20½p)
Powderject	112½p (+10p)
Inchape	161p (+10p)
Dennis	268½p (+15p)
Bowthorpe	367½p (+19p)
City Technology	205p (+9p)
Telspec	277½p (+10p)
Lambert Howarth	241p (+8½p)
Gallaher	372p (+10p)
Sherwd Intl	605p (+15p)
Legal & Gen	701p (+16p)
Tate & Lyle	512p (+10p)
Croda	371½p (+7p)
Whitbread	955p (+17p)
JJB Sports	720½p (+13p)
Vanguard	517½p (+10p)
Low & Bonar	300p (+6p)
FALLS:	
Alphameric	38p (-8p)
Swire Pacific	333¾p (-29p)
Alliance & Leic	892p (-36p)
Jardine Math	285¾p (-10p)
Paragon	221½p (-7p)
Whitehead Mann	203p (-6p)
Argos	611p (-14p)
3i	505p (-10p)
Londn & Man	529p (-9½p)
Imperial Tob	435p (-10p)
Blue Circle	338½p (-8p)
CML Micro	184p (-5p)
Fuji Bk Y	454¼p (-12½p)
Ashanti	562¼p (-15½p)
Ascot Hldgs	235p (-6½p)
WMC	211½p (-7¼p)
Xenova	193p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Sir Brian is still hungry

BY most mortal standards, Lloyds TSB shares looked fully valued even before the bank's 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits sent the price up another 4.5 per cent to 875p. Yet The City now believes the shares could top £10.

Lloyds, once the puniest of the Big Four banks, seems to have developed superhuman powers. Sir Brian Pitman has acquired a near god-like status in banking circles. His chief executive, Peter Ellwood, has now shown his mettle with a 40 per cent return on equity.

The $60 million question, however, is whether the dynamic duo can continue to deliver such bumper profits year after year. It is hard to see much further improvement in the economic environment, so this will largely depend on two factors: further cost cuts and how the bank uses its surplus capital, now £1 billion and growing.

Lloyds TSB is well on its way to achieving the £400 million in annual savings promised at the time of the merger. Its branch network remains by far the largest of the high-street clearers and it has further scope for cutting back on a headcount of more than 82,500 employees.

Dealing with the excess capital is a far thornier issue. Sir Brian makes it plain he would prefer to make an acquisition than return money to shareholders. However, the bank is deterred by the high prices that financial companies can command.

In the absence of an acquisition, Lloyds TSB will have little choice but to go ahead with a share buy-back or special dividend. Lloyd TSB's record makes the shares a deserved hold, but investors should be wary about buying more.

Forfaiting

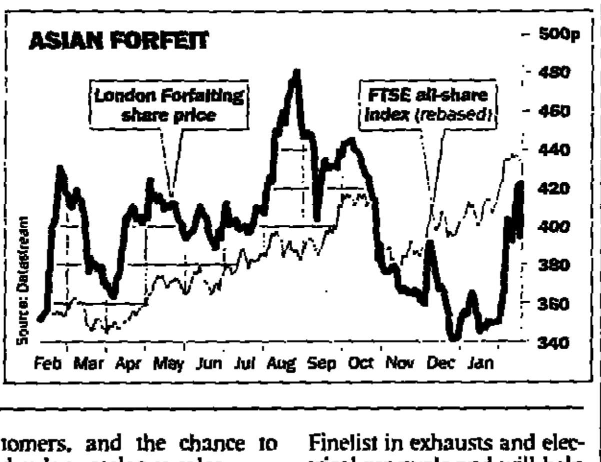
LONDON Forfaiting issued its results a few days early to curtail the recent rush of enthusiasm for its shares. As the figures showed, the economic crisis in Asia dealt a heavy blow to the volume of trade in the fourth quarter, a problem that has only just begun to ease.

London Forfaiting is the world leader in an esoteric niche of trade finance. It provides finance to exporters by buying bills of exchange or promissory notes issued on behalf of the exporters' customers. These bills, typically guaranteed by the customers' bank, are then sold on at a profit to investors.

Although turnover last year rose by 22 per cent to £2.3 billion, this masks a sharp slowdown towards the year end. The fourth quarter trade of £462 million was 28 per cent down on a year earlier as other emerging markets caught the Asian flu.

This is not all bad news. The uncertainties mean that London Forfaiting will be able to command better margins as the business returns. The company has missed its 1997 forecasts by nearly £5 million, but HSBC James Capel still expects it to be able to raise pre-tax profits again this year to about £46.5 million. It still has plenty of opportunities and plans, or has already opened, new offices as far afield as Bucharest, Moscow and Shanghai.

The shares, down 26½p to 397½p, trade on less than 12 times forecast earnings. That looks fair value.



ISA

ISA International is making a bold and risky move in acquiring John Heath so soon after last November's profits warning. That it is prepared to issue so many new shares at half the price of a year ago indicates the extent of the threat it sees to its business in supplying printer cartridges and other computer consumables.

ISA's problem is that its large corporate customers increasingly want a single supplier for all their office supplies. The likes of Niceday, Universal and US Office Products can provide not only ink cartridges but paper to print on and the filing cabinets to keep the documents. ISA is starting to miss out on contracts it would previously have won.

Hence the £29 million purchase of John Heath, Britain's second-largest stationery wholesaler. This will give it a wider product range, access to Heath's customers, and the chance to develop catalogue sales.

A contract stationer serving customers direct would have been a better fit but it seems no suitable (or affordable) business was available. The worry is that in welding on Heath to create a one-stop supplier ISA will be going into competition with the dealers who are Heath's customers. ISA insists this is not the case because the dealers are supplying smaller businesses.

Taking over Heath's £100 million of sales will itself present quite a challenge. ISA had to respond to the changes in its market, but its shares still represent a speculative investment.

Finelist

THE acquisition of Independent Parts Group provides Finelist with another opportunity to demonstrate its knack for integrating acquisitions.

Independent will boost Finelist in exhausts and electrical renewals and will help it along the road towards its ambition of being the leader in car components distribution. PartCo and Halfords are its main rivals in this fragmented business.

From sales of £24 million and pre-tax profits of £2.5 million in 1994, Finelist has grown into a business with turnover of £229 million and profits of £18.5 million in its last full year. Independent will make little contribution this year, and market profit forecasts for Finelist remain at £30 million. But the purchase should help the enlarged group make around £39 million in the year to June 1999.

Finelist shares fell 5p to 373½p yesterday, leaving the shares on a multiple of 14.4 times forecast earnings. Having recently overcome a bout of weakness, the shares currently offer few obvious attractions.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	998-997	May	1141-1140
May	1020 BID	Jul	1160 SLR
Jul	1043-1042	Sep	1178-1174
Sep	1067-1064	Dec	unq
Dec	1089-1087		
Mar	1121-1120		Volume: 5774

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1757 BID	Nov	1658-1655
May	1725 BID	Jan	unq
Jul	1690 BID	Mar	unq
Sep	1672 SLR		Volume: 4897

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	283.5-92.8
Spot: unq		Dec	296.9-94.3
Mar	280.0-79.0	Mar	304.9-01.0
May	288.0-87.9	May	307.0-05.0
Aug	294.5-94.3		Volume: 4197

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	70.25	83.34	90.66
(+/-)	-7.87	+3.11	-0.28
Eng/Wales:	70.25	82.38	89.65
(+/-)	-7.87	+2.11	-0.51
(%)	-1.0	+1.0	n/c
Scotland:	unq	86.85	94.60
(+/-)	—	+6.76	+0.50
(%)	—	+16.0	+3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.25	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Apr)	15.00	+0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	15.30	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	16.35	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.65	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	161 (n/c)	163 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	138 (n/c)	140 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	60 (+1)	62 (+1)
Naphtha	154 (+2)	156 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	140.00-40.25	Jun	145.50-46.00
Apr	141.50-41.75	Jul	147.50-47.75
May	143.25-43.75		Vol: 11534

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	14.97-14.99	Jul	15.73 BID
May	15.29 SLR	Aug	15.96 BID
Jun	unq		Vol: 21374

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	80.00	Mar	74.60
May	82.00	May	76.60
Jul	83.75	Sep	78.25
Sep	80.50	Nov	80.25
Nov	82.50	Jan	82.25
Volume: 475		Volume: 15	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	70.0
Apr	72.0	69.0
May	85.0	81.0
		Volume: 95

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 52.50-53.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 98	990	970	970
Mar 98	1130	1105	1105
Apr 98	1185	1150	1150
Jul 98	1040	1030	1025
Vol: 270 lots		Open interest: 1447	

Index 936 (+3)

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 1676.5-1677.0	3mth: 1702.0-1703.0	Vol: 1155550
Lead ($/tonne)	506.50-507.50	522.50-523.00	140325
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1055.0-1055.5	1079.5-1080.0	477075
Tin ($/tonne)	5180.0-5185.0	5210.0-5215.0	19425
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1493.0-1493.5	1506.0-1506.5	2064150
Nickel ($/tonne)	5575.0-5580.0	5660.0-5665.0	158802

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	180	18½	24	29½	4½	8½	11
(*191½)	200	7	14	20	13½	17½	20½
Abbey Nat	1150	91½	131½	165½	58	82	105½
(*1187½)	1200	66	107	141	83	105½	130
All Leic	850	76½	103	118½	29½	45	56
(*895½)	900	50	77½	93	53	68½	80
Alld Dom	500	55	89	76	14	25½	28
(*536½)	550	27½	43	50½	35	49½	52
BAA	500	53½	68½	82	10½	19½	24½
(*542)	550	23½	39	55	31	41	47
BAT Ind	550	49	64½	78	22½	35½	48
(*581)	600	22½	41	53½	48½	62	73
Barclays	1800	154	219	254	68	105	128
(*1886½)	1900	102½	168½	204	118½	154	176
Bass	901	63	85	104½	23	43½	54
(*932½)	957	33½	56	75	48½	70½	80½
Boots	900	54	76	94	33½	52	63½
(*907½)	950	33	53	71	61½	79	98
Br Airways	550	30½	56	74	21½	37½	44½
(*563½)	600	18½	33½	52	47½	64	72
BP	750	64	87	103½	22½	35	43
(*791½)	800	35½	61½	78	44	56½	68½
Br Steel	140	9½	14½	16½	7	13½	15½
(*140½)	160	3	7	9	20½	26½	28½
C&W	600	50½	69½	88½	26½	40½	50½
(*621)	650	28	46½	65	52½	67	76
CU	950	94	133	156	42½	68½	89
(*1008)	1000	67½	109	132	67	93½	113½
GlaxoW	1900	118½	190	236½	94	147	162
(*1921)	2000	75½	141½	188½	151½	201	214
HSBC	1600	123	187	227½	122½	174½	195½
(*1609½)	1700	83	154	185½	183	231½	252
Halifax	900	54½	90	95½	54	68	73
(*907)	950	34½	58	73½	82	97	104
ICI	1050	50	86	108½	47	68	83½
(*1065½)	1100	28½	63	85½	76½	94½	111
Land Sec	1100	57½	78½	101	45	62½	74½
(*1101½)	1150	35	54	78	73½	90½	102
M&S	550	38	50	62	17½	29½	37½
(*562)	600	15	27½	39½	47	57	65
Natl Pwr	600	68½	80½	92½	16½	28	37½
(*646½)	650	37½	53½	67½	32½	51½	61½
Nat West	1100	90	129½	152	57	79	96½
(*1139)	1150	66	105	127½	82	104	121
Reuters	600	36	60½	80	34	52	80
(*609)	650	15½	39½	58½	64	83½	88
Ryl&Sun	650	56½	80½	88½	32	46	58½
(*680½)	700	33	56	64	58½	71½	81½
Safeway	380	22	32	44½	16	24½	27
(*385)	390	10½	20	32	32½	42	44½
Sainsbury	420	38½	47½	56½	8	18	22½
(*446)	460	16½	27	36½	24½	37	42
Shell	380	33	42½	50	11	20½	26
(*408½)	420	17	27½	38½	23½	35½	41
SmKl Bch	800	63	81½	117	37½	61½	72½
(*818)	850	40	57½	93	63	87	97½
Std Char	650	66½	103	118½	46	71	82
(*675)	700	44	80½	98	72	87½	108
Thames W	850	45	88	77	22½	41	50
(*887½)	900	24	43½	54	50	68½	77½
Vodafone	500	60½	79	95	18½	30	39½
(*538)	550	32½	58	71	40½	53½	64
Woolwich	360	27½	39½	46½	15½	23	29½
(*371½)	390	14½	28	34½	32½	38	45
Zeneca	2500	157½	244½	315	184	182½	189
(*2556)	2600	108	194	264½	154	212	237½

Series		Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BTR	160	5½	13½	16½	2½	14½	18
(*163)	180	—	6½	13	17	28	30½
Blue Circ	330	11	29	35	2½	21½	22½
(*336½)	360	½	16	22½	22	39½	40½
Br Aero	1700	30½	120	171½	20½	92½	120½
(*1709½)	1800	2	76½	125	92	149	175
Br Telcm	565	17½	—	—	3½	—	—
(*579)	600	3	31	45½	22½	42	54
Cadbury	700	28	51	68	2½	29	38½
(*723)	750	2	28½	43½	29	57	64½
Energy Gp	750	26	30	39	1½	4	4½
(*775)	800	2	9	10½	26	27½	29
Gallaher	360	11½	25½	34	3	20½	24
(*369)	390	1	12	21	21½	38	41½
GEC	360	24½	39½	48	—	10	16
(*384)	390	3	22	29	9	21½	29

Series		Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls —	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts —
Diageo PLC	556	9½	30½	—	5½	28	—
(*560½)	613	—	11½	—	52½	67	—

Series		Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Diageo PLC	556	9½	30½	44½	5½	28½	35
(*560½)	613	—	10½	22	52½	67½	71½
Hanson	280	9½	24	29½	1½	16½	17½
(*289)	300	½	15½	21	12½	28	29
Imp Tob	420	17½	39½	45	3	15	22½
(*436)	460	½	19	26½	25½	55½	44
Kingfisher	1050	20	88	91½	13½	58	71
(*1065)	1100	4	45½	68	48	87½	98
Lasmo	260	5½	20½	27	3½	15	17½
(*261½)	280	½	12½	18½	18½	26½	29
Ladbroke	280	8	21	30½	3½	18	22
(*283)	300	½	12½	21½	17½	30	33½
LucasVar	200	14½	25	30	—	8½	12
(*214)	220	1½	14½	20½	7	17	21½
P&O	750	12½	40	56	8	38½	49
(*754½)	800	½	19½	34½	45½	70	76½
Prudentl	850	18½	64	90½	15	81½	78½
(*852)	900	3	45	68½	50	90½	104½
Rio Tinto	800	18	55½	80½	9	52½	63½
(*808)	850	2	36	60	43½	83½	94
Redland	330	15½	17	17	½	0½	½
(*345)	360	½	0½	½	15½	15½	15½
R-Royce	200	5	16½	24	3½	14½	16½
(*202)	220	—	9	16	18	26	28½
Tesco	500	8	29	45	6	26	34
(*503)	550	—	11½	24½	47	58	64
Utd Bisc	260	9	18½	25	1	13	16
(*268)	280	½	10	16	12½	24½	27½

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
BG PLC	300	15½	28½	—	9½	18½	—
(*312)	330	6	18	24½	23	31	35½
BSkyB	360	22½	38	48	14	24½	28
(*365)	390	10	25	34½	31½	47½	44½
Br Gas	90	15½	23	30½	5½	13	17½
(*98½)	100	10½	19	27	18½	18½	23
Centrica	100	8	13	15½	3½	5½	8
(*105)	110	3	8½	12	8	11	13
Dixons	500	47	68	75½	6	16	24
(*538)	550	18½	40	49	24½	37	46½
EMI	460	41½	68	77	11½	26½	39
(*487)	492	24	—	—	25	—	—
Granada	850	54	88	104½	10½	26	40
(*890½)	900	24	60	78	30½	47½	63
GUS	700	63½	90	107½	9½	24	32½
(*749½)	750	32½	61	79½	27½	45	54
Lloyds TSB	850	49½	85½	105½	36½	55½	77
(*871½)	900	27½	62½	81	65	82	96½
Lonrho	100	9	15½	18	4	8½	11½
(*106)	110	4	11	13½	9	13½	16½
Norwich	420	38½	51	64	6½	20	23
(*450)	460	14½	29½	44	22½	39	42
Orange	330	37	54½	62½	9	18½	22½
(*355½)	360	21½	38½	47½	22	32½	37
Railtrack	850	52½	89½	111	34	54	66
(*864½)	900	30½	69	83	80½	78	82
Scot Pwr	500	28	49½	59	14½	25½	36
(*510½)	550	11½	27	40	45	53½	63½
Tarmac	90	11	13	15½	½	2½	5
(*99½)	100	4½	7½	10	4	7	9
Tomkins	330	21	34	40	5	12½	18½
(*344)	360	6½	19½	25	20	27	33½
Unilever	475	30	45½	—	6½	20	—
(*494½)	500	15½	32½	43	17	32	39

February 13 Total: 24449 Calls: 12370 Puts: 11779

FTSE INDEX (*5578½)

Strike	Calls Feb	Calls Mar	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Puts Feb	Puts Mar	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun
5400	188½	262	315	363	423	10	81½	125	155½	194½
5450	141½	222½	281½	332	—	16½	93½	142	173	—
5500	101½	191	250½	301½	359	27½	111½	161	192	229½
5550	66½	161½	218½	271	—	44	132	180½	217	—
5600	40½	129½	188	240	295½	88½	153	200	230½	266
5650	22	106	162½	213½	—	101	180½	225	254	—
5700	10½	83	139½	190½	243½	140	208	252½	280½	314½
5750	4½	62½	118½	167½	—	184½	238½	280½	307	—

February 13 Total: 4058 Calls: 1294 Puts: 2764

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	124-01	124-17	123-28	124-07	46025
Previous open interest 191434	Jun 98	107-27	108-08	107-27	108-02	1046
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	107.18	107.51	107.13	107.27	133019
Previous open interest 286020	Jun 98	106.60	106.86	106.57	106.69	914
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	105.45	105.47	105.45	105.44	1503
Previous open interest 18242	Jun 98				105.11	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	118.17	118.51	118.12	118.26	51175
Previous open interest 148573	Jun 98	117.70	117.93	117.65	117.77	7220
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.29	129.45	129.27	129.41	2851
	Jun 98	128.78	128.96	128.78	128.92	1387
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 98	92.51	92.53	92.51	92.52	10125
	Jun 98	92.63	92.64	92.60	92.62	16223
Previous open interest 809621	Sep 98	92.81	92.84	92.78	92.81	13701
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 98	96.45	96.47	96.45	96.46	33617
Previous open interest 2066570	Jun 98	96.30	96.33	96.29	96.31	35351
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 98	94.08	94.12	94.07	94.10	22198
Previous open interest 774175	Jun 98	94.99	95.08	94.99	95.04	37719
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 98	98.79	98.91	98.79	98.91	19690
Previous open interest 164087	Jun 98	98.68	98.81	98.68	98.80	13264
Three Mth ECU	Mar 98	95.67	95.68	95.67	95.68	255
Previous open interest 35347	Jun 98	95.71	95.74	95.71	95.73	515
FTSE 100	Mar 98	5565.0	5590.0	5540.0	5574.0	7024
Previous open interest 2549	Jun 98	5625.0	5625.0	5625.0	5638.0	2

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 6 Week fixed: 7[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	n/a	—	—	—	—
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7[illegible], close 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	7[illegible]	n/a	7[illegible]	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	5.52	n/a	5.52	5.53	5.59
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £423m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.275% received: 81%: Last week: £98.30% received: 23%: Avge rate: £6.8817% last wk £6.7625%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $298.80-299.20 Close: $298.60-299.10 High: $299.05-299.55 Low: $298.00-298.50 AM: $298.00 PM: $299.15

Krugerrand: $303.00-305.00 (£185.00-187.00)

Platinum: $388.50 (£237.75) Silver: $7.105 (£4.335) Palladium: $238.00 (£145.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3565-3.3654	3.3623-3.3654	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	61.430-61.662	61.554-61.662	21-16pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.349-11.378	11.370-11.378	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.1887-1.1957	1.1922-1.1945	13-60r	38-31pr
Frankfurt	2.9779-2.9856	2.9855-2.9856	[illegible]pr	2½-2¼pr
Lisbon	304.77-305.67	305.38-305.67	[illegible]pr	2½-1¼pr
Madrid	252.34-253.23	252.97-253.23	57-47pr	182-164pr
Milan	2944.7-2947.8	2944.7-2947.8	38-22pr	108-86pr
Montreal	2.3505-2.3608	2.3590-2.3608	0.50-0.45pr	1.02-0.93pr
New York	1.6340-1.6396	1.6357-1.6364	0.248-0.227pr	0.755-0.725pr
Oslo	12.383-12.419	12.404-12.417	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.9830-10.011	10.001-10.011	3-2½pr	9¼-9¼pr
Stockholm	13.256-13.296	13.268-13.282	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	204.51-205.18	205.01-205.18	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Vienna	20.950-21.009	20.993-21.009	[illegible]pr	2½-1½pr
Zurich	2.3943-2.4011	2.3950-2.3975	1¼-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4883-1.4894
Austria	12.84-12.85
Belgium (Com)	37.63-37.67
Canada	1.4409-1.4414
Denmark	6.9496-6.9516
France	6.1140-6.1170
Germany	1.8240-1.8245
Hong Kong	7.7385-7.7405
Ireland	1.3695-1.3710
Italy	1799.7-1801.2
Japan	125.19-125.24
Malaysia	3.8150-3.8650
Netherlands	2.0559-2.0569
Norway	7.5839-7.5889
Portugal	186.70-186.90
Singapore	1.6570-1.6600
Spain	154.59-154.67
Sweden	8.1102-8.1152
Switzerland	1.4638-1.4648

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6354-1.6381
Australia dollar	2.4337-2.4370
Bahrain dinar	0.6100-0.6240
Brazil real*	1.8396-1.8425
China yuan	13.41-13.71
Cyprus pound	0.8590-0.8780
Finland markka	8.9525-8.9935
Greece drachma	464.5-475.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.6551-12.6645
India rupee	62.73-64.03
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4950-0.5060
Malaysia ringgit	6.2540-6.3076
New Zealand dollar	2.8058-2.8109
Pakistan rupee	70.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8925-6.0275
Singapore dollar	2.7079-2.7145
S Africa rand (com)	8.000-8.169
U A E dirham	5.945-6.081

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,700	Land Secs	468
AMVESCAP	615	Legal & Gn	1,800
ASDA Gp	3,600	Lloyds TSB	14,700
Abbey Ntl	2,000	LucasVarity	1,600
Allnce & Leic	709	Marks Spr	5,800
Allied Dom	2,600	NatWst Bk	3,000
AB Foods	3,000	Nat Grid	1,300
BAA	3,900	Nat Power	2,600
BAT Inds	10,700	Next	1,500
BG	3,700	Norwich Un	2,700
BOC	914	Nycomed Amer	36
BP	7,200	Orange	1,300
BSkyB	2,300	P & O	1,600
BTR	16,800	Pearson	2,000
BT	21,800	PowerGen	1,100
Bk of Scot	1,800	Prudential	4,000
Barclays	1,400	Railtrack	2,600
Bass	1,300	Rank Group	1,300
Billiton	4,200	Reckitt Col	297
Blue Circle	1,100	Reed Intl	1,300
Boots	742	Rentokil	2,200
BAe	725	Reuters	8,500
BA	3,400	Rio Tinto	2,900
Brit Energy	3,100	Rolls Royce	3,500
British Land	629	Royal & Sun	2,500
Brit Steel	5,800	Royal Bk Sct	675
Cable Wire	3,800	Safeway	3,400
Cadbury	3,300	Sainsbury	4,900
Carlton Cms	4,700	Schroders	70
Centrica	27,200	Scot & New	232
Cm Union	1,100	Scot Power	1,600
Diageo	5,200	Svrn Trent	1,800
Dixons	1,300	Shell Trans	36,000
EMI	2,000	Siebe	754
Energy Gp	528	SmKl Bch	6,700
Enterpr Oil	1,700	Smiths Inds	812
GKN	255	Std Chartd	6,700
GRE	2,000	Sun Life	302
GUS	2,000	Tesco	3,200
Gen Acc	561	Thames W	287
Gen Elec	3,200	Tomkins	4,100
Glaxo Well	4,900	Unilever	24,500
Granada	1,600	Utd Utilities	1,900
HSBC	4,700	Utd News	1,100
Halifax	5,000	Vodafone	6,100
Hays	992	Whitbread	343
ICI	1,300	Williams	666
Kingfisher	2,300	Wolseley	420
LASMO	663	Woolwich	1,900
Ladbroke	2,300	Zeneca	1,700

WALL STREET

	Feb 13 midday	Feb 12 close
AMP Inc	42¾	42¾
AMR Corp	132¼	134¼
AT & T	63½	62½
Abbott Labs	74¾	73¾
Advanced Micro	18¾	18¾
Aetna Life	84	83½
Ahmanson (HF)	59¾	60¼
Air Prod & Chem	85¼	85¼
AirTouch Comm	43¾	44¼
Albertson's	47¼	47¼
Alcan Alumnm	31¼	31¼
Allied Signal	42	42
Alum Co of Am	77¼	76¾
Amerada Hess	56½	56¾
AEP	49¼	49¾
Amer Express	88¼	88¾
Amer Genl Corp	56¼	56¼
Amer Home Pr	88¾	89¾
Amer Intl	117¼	118¾
Amer Stores	23¼	23½
Amer Standard	41¼	41¼
Ameritech	41½	41¾
Amgen	54¼	55
Amoco	83¼	83¼
Andrew Corp	28½	28¾
Anheuser-Busch	46½	46¼
Apple Computer	19¾	19½
Archer Daniels	22¾	22¾
Armco	4¾	4¾
Armstrng Wrld	72¼	72¾
Asarco	22½	22¾
Atl Richfield	74¾	74
Avnet Corp	17	16¾
Auto Data Pro	60¾	60¾
Avery Dennison	49¾	49½
Avon Products	69¾	69¾
Baker Hughes	39	37¾
Baltim Gas & El	30¼	31¼
Banc One	55½	56¾
BankAmerica	74¾	74¼
Bank of NY	56¾	57¾
Bankers Tr NY	108¾	110
Bausch & Lomb	44¾	45¾
Baxter Intl	55¾	56¼
Becton Dickson	64¾	65¼
Bell Atlantic	98¼	97¾
BellSouth	56¾	57¼
Best Foods	102¾	103¼
Black & Decker	39½	39¾
Block (H&R)	45¾	45¾
Boeing	49¼	49¼
Boise Cascade	34¼	34½
Boston Scien	58¼	57¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	98¾	99¾
Browning Ferris	32¼	32¼
Brunswick	32¼	32¼
Burlington Nthn	95¼	96¼
CMS Energy Corp	43	43¼
CSX	58¾	59¾
CBS Corp	31	31¼
Campbell Soup	55¾	55½
Carolina Pwr	41½	41¾
Case Corp	64¾	65¾
Caterpillar	53	52¼
Central & SW	27	26¾
Champion Intl	52¼	53¼
Chase Manhat	118¾	119¾
Chevron Corp	77¾	77¼
Chrysler	38¾	38¼
Chubb Corp	78½	78¼
Cigna Corp	179¼	179¼
Citicorp	126½	128½
Clorox	82½	82¾
Coastal Corp	61¼	62¾
Coca Cola	68¼	69¼
Coca Cola Ent	32¾	32¼
Colgate-Palm	79¾	81
Columbia Energy	76¼	77¾
ColumbiaHCA	28½	28
Compaq Comp	35¼	35¾
Comp Ass Intl	49¼	49¾
Conagra	32¾	32¼
Cons Edison	42¾	43¼
Cons Nat Gas	55¾	55¾
Cooper Inds	55¼	55¾
Corestates	79¾	79¼
Corning Inc	37¾	37¼
C'wide Credit	44¾	45¾
Crestar Finl	55¼	56¾
Crown Cork	53¼	52¼
Dana Corp	55¾	54¾
Dayton Hudson	73¼	73
Deere	57¾	56¾
Delta Air Lines	121¾	123¼
Deluxe Corp	32¾	33¼
Digital Equip	60¼	61¼
Dillard Dept St	38¼	38¾
Disney (Walt)	109¾	110¼
Dominion Res	40¾	40¾
Donnelley (RR)	38¼	38
Dover Corp	36¼	36½
Dow Chemical	89½	89
Dow Jones	49¾	51¼
Dresser	37½	37¾
Duke Power	54¼	54¾
Dun & Bradstreet	32¾	32¾
Du Pont	61¾	62¼
Eastman Chem	63	63¼
Eastman Kodak	67¾	66¼
Eaton Corp	91¼	91¼

	Feb 13 midday	Feb 12 close
Edison Intl	26¾	26¾
Elect Data Sys	43¼	42¾
Emerson Elec	63¾	63¾
Engelhard Corp	17	17¾
Enron Corp	42¼	42¾
Entergy	28¾	28¾
Ethyl Corp	7¾	7¼
Exxon	62¾	63¾
FDX Holding	68¼	68¾
FMC Corp	71¼	71¾
FPL Group	59¾	59¾
Fifth Third Banc	78¾	79¾
Fleet Finl Grp	77¼	78¼
Fluor Corp	43¼	42½
Ford Motor	53½	53¾
Fort James	44	43¾
Fortune Brands	37¼	37¾
Franklin Res	47¼	49¾
GTE Corp	54¼	55¾
Gannett	62¾	62¼
Gap Inc Del	41	41¼
Gateway 2000	44	43¾
Gen Dynamics	87¼	87¾
Gen Electric	77¾	78¼
Gen Mills	74¼	73¾
Gen Motors	63¼	63½
Gen Reinsurance	210¾	211¼
Gen Signal	39¼	39¾
Genuine Parts	35¾	35¼
Georgia Pac	58¾	59¾
Gillette	101¼	102¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	62¾	62¼
Goodrich (BF)	44¾	45
Goodyear Tire	68¼	69
Great Lakes	46¾	46¼
Halliburton	47¼	46¾
Harcourt General	55¾	54¼
Heinz (HJ)	57¼	58
Hercules	48¼	48¾
Hershey Foods	64¾	64¾
Hewlett Packard	62	62¾
Hilton Hotels	29	29¾
Home Depot	65¼	65¾
Homestake Mng	9¾	9½
Honeywell	75¾	75¾
Household Intl	132¾	131
Houston Inds	26	26¼
Humana	22¼	22¾
ITT Corp	83¾	82¾
Ikon Office	33¼	34¾
Illinois Tool	56½	57
Illinova	28	28¾
INCO	17¼	17¾
Ingersoll Rand	44¾	44¼
Inland Steel	20	20¾
Intel Corp	84¾	85
IBM	103¾	102¾
Intl Flav & Fr	44¾	44¼
Intl Paper	48¾	48¾
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	68¼	68¾
Kellogg	44¼	44¼
Kerr-McGee	63¾	63¾
Kimberly-Clark	54½	53¾
Kmart	12¾	12¾
Knight-Ridder	56¾	56¾
Lilly (Eli)	63¾	64¾
Limited Inc	29¾	29¾
Lincoln Nat	80¾	80¾
Litton	60¾	60¼
Liz Claiborne	46¼	46¼
Lockheed Martin	110¼	111
Louisiana Pac	22¼	22¾
MCI Comm	48¾	48¼
Manpower Inc	39¼	39¾
Marriott Intl	73¾	73¾
Marsh & McLen	79¼	80¼
Masco Corp	51¾	51
May Dept St	58¼	57¾
Maytag Corp	42¾	42½
McDonalds	52¾	51¾
McGraw Hill	76¾	76¼
Mead Corp	34¾	34¼
Medtrust Corp	32¾	31¾
Medtronic	57¼	57¼
Mellon Bk	61¼	62¾
Merck Inc	116¼	117¾
Mercury Fin	0¾	0¾
Merrill Lynch	68¼	68¾
Microsoft	158¼	158¼
Minnesota Mine	87¼	88¾
Mirage Resorts	24¾	24¼
Mobil Corp	70¾	70¾
Monsanto	50¾	51
Morgan (JP)	111¾	112¾
Motorola Inc	62¼	61¾
Mylan Labs	18¾	18¾
Natl Semi	23	23
Natl Service Ind	51¼	51¾
Navistar Intl	28¼	29
NY Times A	66¾	66¾
Newmont Mng	28¾	28¼
Nike B	40¼	40¾
NL Industries	17¾	17¾
Nordstrom	56¼	57
Norfolk Sthrn	34¾	34¼
Nthn State Pwr	57¾	57¾
Norwest Corp	39¾	39¾
Occidental Pet	25¼	25¾
Office Depot	25¾	24¾
Oracle	26¼	26¼

	Feb 13 midday	Feb 12 close
Oryx Energy Co	24¾	24¾
Owens Corning	28¼	28¾
PPG Industries	60¾	61¼
PMI Group	70¾	70¼
PNC Bank	54	54¼
PP&L Res	22¼	22¾
Paccar Inc	59¼	59¼
Pacificorp	24¼	24¾
Pac Enterprises	36¼	36¼
PaineWebber	32¼	32¾
Pall Corp	20¼	20¾
Parker Hannifin	45¾	45¼
Peco Energy	20¾	20¾
Penney (JC)	66¾	66¾
Pennzoil	66¾	66¾
Pepsico	36¼	36¼
Pfizer	83¼	84¾
Pharm & Upjhn	39¾	39¾
Phelps Dodge	62¾	62¾
Philip Morris	42¼	42¾
Phillips Pet	46¾	46¾
Pitney Bowes	45¾	45¾
Polaroid	46	46¾
Procter & Gmbl	84	83¾
Providian	48¾	49
Pub Serv E & G	31¼	31¼
Quaker Oats	50¾	49
Ralston Purina	97	97¾
Raychem Corp	37¾	37¾
Raytheon B	54¼	54¼
Reebok Intl	29¼	29¾
Reliastar Fin	47¾	47¾
Reynolds Metals	63	63¾
Rockwell Intl	59¼	59¼
Rohm & Haas	93¼	93¾
Royal Dutch	51¾	52¾
Rubbermaid	27¾	27¾
SBC Comms	75¾	76¾
Safeco Corp	50¾	50¾
St Paul's Cos	86¾	86¾
Sara Lee Corp	54¼	54¾
Schering Plough	73	74¼
Schlumberger	76¾	75
Seagram	38	38¾
Sears Roebuck	53¾	54
Shell Trans	40¾	40¾
Sherwin Wllms	30¾	30¾
Silicon Graphics	15¾	15¾
Snap-On Tools	39¾	40
Southern Co	25	25
Southtrust	61¼	61¼
Sprint Corp	59¾	59¾
Stanley Works	46¼	46¾
Sun Company	40¾	40¾
Sun Microsys	41¾	44¼
Suntrust	71¾	72¼
Supervalu	46¾	48¾
Synovus Fin	33¾	33¼
Sysco Corp	47¾	47¼
TRW Inc	53¼	53¾
TIG Hldgs	26¾	26
Tandy Corp	42¾	42¾
Temple Inland	56¾	56¾
Tenet Healthcare	34¾	35¼
Tenneco	40¾	42¾
Texaco	54¾	54¾
Texas Inst	56¾	56¾
Texas Utilities	41¼	40¾
Textron	67¾	67¾
Thermo Elect	34¾	39¾
Time Warner	67	66¾
Times-Mirror A	59¼	59¾
Timken	32¼	32¼
Torchmark	41¾	41¾
Toys R Us	29¼	29¾
Transamerica	108¾	108
Travelers	54¼	55¾
Tribune	61¼	62¾
UST Inc	34¾	35¼
US Bancorp	115	115¾
UAL	92¾	90¾
Unicom	66¼	67¼
US Inds	27¾	27¼
US West Comm	47¼	47¼
US West Media	30¾	30¼
USAirways Group	72	69¾
USX Marathon	32¾	32¾
Unicom	31¾	31¾
Unilever NV	58	59¾
Union Camp	61¾	61¼
Union Carbide	47¾	47¾
Union Pacific	59¾	59¾
Unisys Corp	18¾	18¾
USF&G Corp	24	24¾
United Tech	86¾	87¼
Unocal Corp	36¾	36¼
VF Corp	45¾	46¼
Wal-Mart Stores	43¼	44¾
Warner-Lambert	149¾	149¼
Waste Mngmt	24¾	24¾
Wells Fargo	325¼	325¾
Weyerhaeuser	51¾	51¼
Whirlpool	63¾	63¾
Whitman	17¼	17¾
Winn Dixie	40¾	40¼
Witco Corp	40¾	40¾
Woolworth	23¼	23¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	74¾	75
Xerox	82¾	84¾
Xilinx Inc	39¾	39¾

NEWS

Fast exit for slowest judge

■ A leading High Court judge resigned after three Court of Appeal judges attacked his "intolerable" delay in deciding a case. Such criticism is unprecedented and Mr Justice Harman promptly told the Lord Chancellor's Department that he intended to quit — becoming only the second judge this century to go in such circumstances ..... **Page 1**

Child work hours to be cut

■ Laws to limit the hours worked by children outside school were promised by the Government. Under national limits to be set by the Department of Health, 13 and 14-year-olds will be allowed to work for no more than two hours on weekdays and Sundays and five hours on Saturdays ..... **Page 1**

Chemical threat

Iraqi intelligence has parked lorries laden with dangerous chemicals in neighbourhoods of Kirkuk and Mosul ..... **Pages 1, 16, 17**

Lamont for Lords

Norman Lamont is expected to be made a life peer in a move marking an important stage in his political rehabilitation ..... **Page 2**

Doomed deer

More than 100 deer have been shot on the orders of two Somerset farmers after deer hounds were banned from National Trust and Forestry Commission land **Page 3**

Sinn Fein out

Sinn Fein's suspension from the peace talks looked inevitable after police linked the IRA to two murders ..... **Page 4**

Father's plea

The father of Caroline Dickinson begged French people to look "long and hard" at a picture of his daughter's suspected killer .. **Page 5**

Not yoghurt

Bio yoghurt is to be renamed "fermented milk product" if a standards body has its way ..... **Page 7**

No smoking row

The latest wonder cure for Britain's 13 million smokers has been denounced by a widow who holds the patent for the country's first dummy cigarette ..... **Page 9**

Secret numbers

Millions of Britons are taking themselves out of the telephone book as an ex-directory number becomes the country's newest status symbol ..... **Page 10**

Insurance fraud

A crooked insurance expert used a notorious 1930s arson ring as the model for a £30 million fraud racket, detectives said ..... **Page 12**

Montserrat fear

The high-profile visit to Montserrat by Robin Cook today is clouded by claims of a hidden agenda to depopulate it ... **Page 14**

Grown-ups join Pooh and Squidgy

■ A reading of the St Valentine's Day messages leaves a distinct impression that the language of love is growing up. Pooh Bear and Squidgy are still at large but many messages now are of devotion rather than pursuit, as in: "Lynda. Eighteen years; you don't get that for murder. Happy prisoner, Kevin" ..... **Page 1**



ROBIN MAYER

Michelle Geisen, on holiday from Paris, enjoys the early spring in St James's Park, yesterday, the warmest February day for 35 years. **Page 1**

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove with Harold Pinter, made wretched at the way the new Labour Government is supporting America over Iraq ..... **Page 20**

Best of enemies: British prisoners of war did their best to break out of Colditz. Now the Germans want the British to save it ..... **Page 13**

Irish search: Their families call them the disappeared. The IRA calls them bogjobs. Martin Fletcher on an Irish family's search for a lost relative ..... **Page 18**

Robert de Niro and a saga of international vice ..... **Page 19**

OPINION

Call for the doctor: The "no" to EMU campaign, if it is to win hearts and minds, must be modern rather than reactionary, internationalist rather than xenophobic .. **Page 23**

Matter of judgment: There will be pressure from many quarters for the judiciary to be "modernised": it will be argued that technical competence alone is an insufficient qualification ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Iraq conflict: Enoch Powell and A.E Housman; trauma treatment ..... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Simon Jenkins: We expect our leaders to behave as in the animal kingdom, ruling until defeated in some primeval trial of strength .. **Page 22**

Robert Crampton: What is certain is that a dislike of Gullit was shared by many fans and employees of the club. The word that comes up is arrogant ..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Lady Doreen Prior-Palmer, international horse trials selector; **Patrick Trittton,** horseman; **Peter Nelson,** racehorse trainer ..... **Page 25**

Lloyds TSB: More than £2 billion was added to the market value as Britain's largest high street bank disclosed a 26 per cent rise in 1997 profits to £3.16 billion ..... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 29.8 to 5582.3. Sterling rose from 104.3 to 104.9 ... **Page 31**

Supplement: A guide on saving for beginners.

Migs under fire; lure of averages; insurance .. **Pages 49-64**

SPORT

Football: Ruud Gullit said that Chelsea had a hidden agenda. He had asked for a £2 million salary **Page 33**

Cricket: Fraser's three-wicket spell revived England hopes after they had won the toss ..... **Page 35**

Olympics: The spectacular fall of Hermann Maier in was a perfect made-for-TV accident ..... **Page 34**

Sailing: Tracy Edwards and her all-female crew were on course to cross the Equator within 11 days of setting sail round the world ..... **Page 35**

SECTIONS

the times magazine

Art mistress: Julia Peyton-Jones shocks ..... **Page 18**
Township gangs in the new South Africa. **Page 26**
Steven Spielberg: Facing controversy ..... **Page 36**
Odd couple: Father and son escort agency **Page 86**

Ryuichi Sakamoto: The big interview ..... **Page 6**
Books: Perils of erotic fiction ..... **Page 16**
Films: Susan Lynch and her motivation ..... **Page 22**
Music charts ..... **Page 13**
Bestsellers ..... **Page 21**
Cult moments ..... **Page 24**

WEEKEND

Diana: Was it murder or accident? ..... **Pages 1, 2**
Marquess of Bath: Wild life and wifelets ..... **Page 3**
Cupid's arrow: Where to find love ..... **Page 8**
Travel: Bhutan; New York; Utah; and walking holidays ..... **Pages 25-34**

HEALING

Depression to gout: a guide to complementary medicine

Vision

A 32-page seven-day television and radio guide

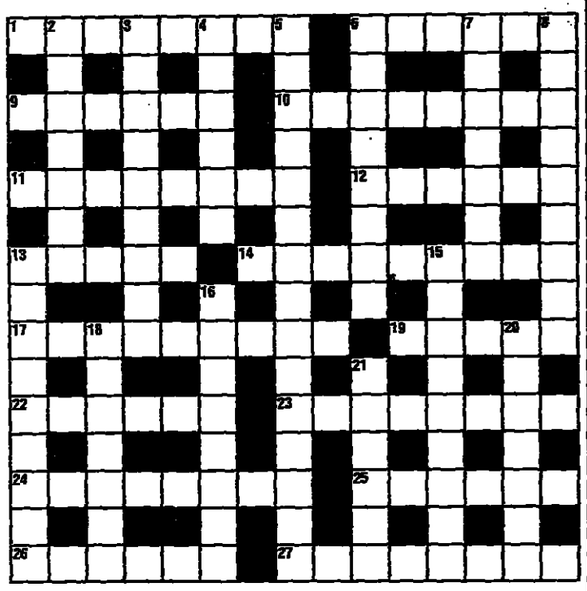
mega

World's favourite mysteries

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,715

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 Herb a little woman found in the grass (8).
6 Almost provide complete contents for short book of pictures (6).
9 Former king suffering setback at Salamis, initially (6).
10 Many high-flyers get into this other type of crossword — and put a spurt on (5,3).
11 One trying to stop fighting of turbulent marrieds (8).
12 New missile contract (6).
13 Noise of engine, entering Victoria *turned low* (5).
14 Block that's part of prison? Not according to Lovelace (9).
17 It's terrible to evict drunk, but that's an order (9).
19 Modest grade got by girl *in form* (5).
22 Writer departs with a letter for Corinthians (6).
25 Is this clock incapable of striking *one*? (8).
24 Fare from India — fellow returned it with thanks (8).
25 Indication of constant pressure is nothing to lawyers (6).
26 A tint I developed for red hair (6).
27 Mean American smashed advertisement about Western (8).

DOWN

2 Place of work the French set up that's used in art, especially (7).
3 *Times going into project* with a stance put together (9).
4 Pick up a summary (6).
5 It may result in time being ten to two, say (8,7).
6 Iron skirt and edges of negligee suitable for woman (8).
7 Turned up stuff on whale in *island* (7).
8 Sheep shelters found round South-West, over the hill here? (9).
13 One food store caught in check, in other words (9).
15 Protest by workers about Jack's informal contact with public (9).
16 Produce order, say, to impose restrictions (8).
18 Man appearing ragged in torn piece of cloth (7).
20 Composer of some crosswords met an aficionado (7).
21 New shoot appears about then (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,709

L	I	M	E	S	T	O	N	E		P	O	P	U	P
O	A	H		B		X		O	L	A				
W	A	X	W	I	N	G		E	X	P	L	A	I	N
E		I		P		A		U		L		C		E
R	U	M	M	Y		N	O	N	P	A	R	E	I	L
C			A		D		T		A		M			
A	S	T	E	R	O	I	D				F	E	E	D
S		H		D		E		L		A		N		A
E	L	A	N				M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R
		D		J		S		B		R		K		
P	O	E	T	A	S	T	E	R		S	L	U	S	H
I		M		L		I		E		P		L		O
L	E	A	D	O	F	F		T	O	A	S	T	E	R
O		R		F		L		T		C		R		S
T	O	K	A	Y		E	X	O	N	E	R	A	T	E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,714

S	T	E	A	L	T	H	Y		R	H	O	D	E	S
O		A		A				O		O		U		
F	O	R	E	N	S	I	C		C	R	E	T	A	N
T		L		G		R		S		U		H		G
		S	O	L	O	M	O	N	S	E	A	L		
B	O	U		F		N			T		A			
R	O	U	T	S		T	H	E	S	A	U	R	U	S
O		T		T	H		T		S		I		S	
W	H	O	L	E	M	E	A	L		C	A	C	H	E
N		F			D		U	E	K	S				
S	H	O	R	T	C	O	M	M	O	N	S			
T		R		H		G		I		D		M		P
U	N	D	I	E	S		O	E	L	A	W	A	R	E
D		E		M			R		N		S		A	
Y	O	R	K	E	R		T	E	E	T	O	T	A	L

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *F Anstis, Truro, Cornwall; A Venmore, Llanfaethlu, Anglesey; P Holden, Tewin, Herts; J Love, Comely Bank Street, Edinburgh; B Ashworth, Kentford Drive, Manchester.*

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1998. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in accordance and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kidsing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 1PJ. Telephone 0151-546 2001. Saturday, February 14, 1998. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax — The Met Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax:

West Country	416 354	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 351	London	416 342
Midlands	416 356		
East Anglia	416 357	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N. West	416 358		
N. East	416 359		
Scotland	416 340		

Meridian Marine
Inshore leisure forecasts 416 398

World City Weather — The Met Office

153 destinations world wide
5 day forecasts

by Phone dial 0336 411216
by Fax (index page) 0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 883
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA motu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd, Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.17 am — Sun sets: 5.14 pm
Moon sets 8.29 am — Moon rises 8.37 pm

Last quarter February 19

London 5.14 pm to 7.15 am
Bristol 5.23 pm to 7.26 am
Edinburgh 5.14 pm to 7.39 am
Manchester 5.17 pm to 7.28 am
Penzance 5.38 pm to 7.33 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.15 am — Sun sets: 5.15 pm
Moon sets 8.52 am — Moon rises 9.39 pm

Last quarter February 19

London 5.15 pm to 7.13 am
Bristol 5.25 pm to 7.23 am
Edinburgh 5.16 pm to 7.36 am
Manchester 5.19 pm to 7.26 am
Penzance 5.40 pm to 7.32 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:02	4.1	3:08	4.2
Avonmouth	8:57	13.1	9:15	12.8
Belfast	0:36	3.2	12:48	3.6
Cardiff	8:43	12.1	9:01	11.9
Devonport	7:39	5.4	7:35	5.2
Dover	0:34	5.6	12:50	6.4
Dublin	1:00	3.9	1:19	4.1
Falmouth	6:49	5.2	7:07	5.0
Greenock	2:27	3.2	2:15	3.5
Harwich	1:25	3.9	1:43	3.9
Holyhead	-	-	12:04	5.5
Hull (Albert Dk)	8:03	8.4	8:10	8.8
Ilfracombe	7:40	9.0	7:58	8.8
King's Lynn	8:09	6.3	8:15	6.6
Leith	3:18	5.3	4:38	5.4
Liverpool	0:35	9.1	1:00	9.2
London Bridge	3:33	7.1	3:53	7.2
Lowestoft	11:30	2.3	11:24	2.5
Margate	1:24	4.7	2:00	4.6
Milford Haven	7:57	6.8	8:15	6.6
Newquay	6:49	5.8	7:05	5.6
Oban	7:12	3.9	7:42	3.8
Penzance	6:19	5.5	6:35	5.3
Portland	3:43	1.9	3:02	1.7
Portsmouth	0:51	4.5	12:59	4.5
Shoreham	0:51	6.1	1:00	6.0
Southampton	0:17	4.4	12:29	4.4
Swansea	7:59	9.3	8:15	9.0
Tees	5:25	5.2	5:34	5.4
Walton-On-Naze	1:15	4.2	1:36	4.1

Crown copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Barbourne, Hereford and Worcester 30C (86F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Skye, 1.81in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 9.1hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** north and northwest Scotland will have more rain, some heavy, but the Northern Isles will turn showery. Southwest Scotland will have sporadic drizzle, mostly near coasts, but eastern Scotland is going to brighten up after early light rain. Northern Ireland and northwest England and Wales will be dull with light rain or drizzle in places, mostly near western coasts. The rest of England and Wales will have a pleasant, dry day with sunshine after early mist has cleared.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Cent S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, Central N England:** mild, mainly sunny. Light S to SW wind. Max 12-14C (54-57F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales:** dry with pleasant sunny spells. Light S to SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** some morning bright spells, but clouding over with drizzle in north later. Moderate SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **NE England:** a few bright spells, but generally cloudy with some drizzle mainly over hills. Moderate SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** dull with occasional rain, mainly in west. Moderate SW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** cloudy with spells of rain. Drier in south. Moderate SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

Republic of Ireland: dry but mainly cloudy. Wind moderate, S to SW. Very mild. Max 13-15C (55-59F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain tomorrow in north and west, elsewhere mainly dry. Mild everywhere. Rain early Monday and cooler.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

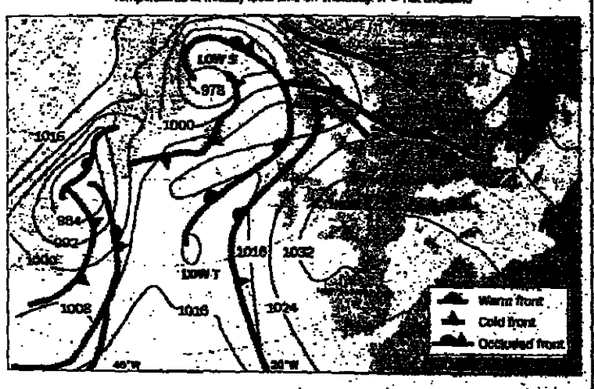
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	F	
Aberdeen	0.7	-	16	61	c	Lerwick	-	0.62	9	48	r
Anglesey	-	0.01	11	52	c	Leuchars	0.9	0.01	14	57	c
Aspatria	0.1	0.01	11	52	d	Llandrindod	7.1	-	14	57	s
Avemore	0.2	0.06	12	54	d	London	8.4	-	19	66	s
Belfast	2.1	0.01	15	59	b	Lowestoft	7.7	-	16	61	s
Birmingham	7.2	-	16	61	s	Manchester	8.4	-	17	63	s
Bognor R	7.6	-	14	57	s	Margate	8.6	-	17	63	s
Bournem'th	X					Milnshead	8.9	-	19	66	s
Bristol	8.7	-	19	66	s	Morecambe	0.2	0.01	11	52	du
Buxton	6.6	-	15	59	s	Newcastle	7.1	-	16	61	s
Cardiff	X					Newquay	3.8	-	13	55	s
Clacton	7.3	-	13	55	s	Norwich	8.5	-	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	7.4	-	17	63	s	Oxford	8.8	-	18	64	s
Colwyn Bay	5.7	-	16	61	s	Penzance	X	0.01	9	48	fg
Cromer	7.6	-	17	63	s	Poole	5.8	-	15	59	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	17	63	s
Eastbourne	7.7	-	13	55	s	Ross-o-wye	X	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	2.2	0.01	15	59	b	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.04	9	48	fg	Scarrin Snd	7.7	-	19	66	s
Exmouth	3.0	-	12	54	sl	Scarboro'	7.1	-	15	59	s
Falmouth	0.8	-	9	48	fg	Shawsbury	6.5	-	16	61	s
Fishguard	7.4	-	14	57	s	Skegness	8.0	-	17	63	s
Folkestone	8.4	-	12	54	s	Southend	8.0	-	15	59	b
Glasgow	1.7	0.01	14	57	d	Southport	X	-	16	61	b
Guernsey	8.3	-	14	57	s	Southsea	7.5	-	14	57	s
Hastings	8.0	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	-	0.82	12	54	r
Hayling I.	7.1	-	17	62	s	Swanage	6.4	-	13	55	s
Heme Bay	8.3	-	X	X	s	Teignmouth	3.5	-	10	50	fg
Hove	X					Tenby	7.8	0.01	11	52	s
Hunstanton	X	-	15	59	s	Tiree	-	0.12	11	52	r
Isle-of-man	-	-	10	50	fg	Torquay	6.1	-	14	57	s
Isle-of-wight	8.5	-	15	59	s	Tynemouth	-	-	16	61	s
Jersey	9.1	0.01	13	55	s	West-s-mare	6.4	-	16	61	s
Kinloss	0.5	0.01	15	59	b	Weymouth	7.5	-	13	55	s
Leeds	5.6	-	17	63	s						

ABROAD

Alacnio	15	59	s	Cologne	14	57	s	Luxor	18	64	f
Alcudi	15	59	s	Corfu	14	57	s	Madrid	8	46	c
Alex'dria	18	64	f	C'phagn	9	48	c	Majorca	15	59	c
Algiers	20	68	f	Dublin	13	55	s	Malaga	15	59	f
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Malta	18	64	s
Athens	17	63	s	Faro	16	59	c	Melb'rne	26	79	s
B Aires	24	75	c	Florence	9	48	s	Mexico C	19	66	s
Bahrain	16	61	c	Frankfurt	11	52	c	Miami	26	79	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Funchal	20	68	c	Milan	16	61	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	10	50	s	Montreal	2	36	f
Barcelona	14	57	b	Gibraltar	15	59	c	Moscow	2	36	h
Beijing	6	43	f	Helsinki	-1	30	c	Munich	14	57	s
Beirut	13	55	f	Hong K	25	77	s	N Delhi	23	73	s
Belgrade	15	59	s	Innsbruck	8	46	s	N York	11	52	s
Berlin	12	54	r	Istanbul	8	46	s	Nairobi	23	73	f
Bermuda	20	68	f	Jeddah	23	73	s	Naples	15	59	f
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jo'burg	18	61	t	Nice	14	57	s
Borde'x	13	55	s	Karachi	X			Oslo	3	37	c
Brussels	13	55	s	L Angels	15	59	s	Paris	13	55	s
Budapst	16	61	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Perth	32	90	c
Cairo	17	63	f	Le Touet	8	46	c	Prague	10	50	f
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Lisbon	15	59	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	sn
Ch'church	22	72	X	Locarno	13	55	s	Rhodes	16	61	s
Chicago	2	36	f	Luxembg	8	46	s	Rio de J	23	73	f
Luxor	18	64	f	Riyadh	18	66	s
Madrid	8	46	c	Rome	16	59	s
Majorca	15	59	c	S Fr'isco	11	52	r
Malaga	15	59	f	Salzburg	9	48	s
Malta	18	64	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Melb'rne	26	79	s	Seoul	10	50	s
Mexico C	19	66	s	Sing'por	33	91	t
Miami	26	79	s	Stkholm	-3	27	c
Milan	16	61	s	Strasb'rg	12	54	s
Montreal	2	36	f	Sydney	32	90	s
Moscow	2	36	h	Tangier	17	63	c
Munich	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
N Delhi	23	73	s	Tenerife	20	68	f
N York	11	52	s	Tokyo	13	55	r
Nairobi	23	73	f	Toronto	4	39	c
Naples	15	59	f	Tunis	19	66	s
Nice	14	57	s	Valencia	14	57	c
Oslo	3	37	c	Van'cver	7	45	r
Paris	13	55	s	Venice	2	36	fg
Perth	32	90	c	Vienna	13	55	s
Prague	10	50	f	Warsaw	8	46	r
Reykjavik	-2	28	sn	Wash'ton	X		
Rhodes	16	61	s	Wel'ngton	24	75	
Rio de J	23	73	f	Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high T will decline as it sinks southeast; low T will fill at the expense of a new low developing later today; low S will drift slowly east filling



TORONTO WITH NIAGARA, ROCKIES OR NEW YORK

Five nights in Toronto returning on Concorde: Niagara with helicopter, city tour, luncheons and theatre.
Depart on 22 May, 4 July, 1,31 Aug, or 5,19 Sept. £1,999

Toronto & the Rockies with Concorde. 18-27 Sept. £2,499

4 nights in New York, Concorde any weekend from £1,999

MONACO GRAND PRIX OR WORLD CUP FINAL

Seat and luncheon at Mirabeau for Monaco Grand Prix with Paris, Concorde and Eurostar. 23-24 May. £1,599

Concorde with World Cup Final seat on 12 July £1,999

ORIENT-EXPRESS, PARIS, VENICE, FLORENCE, ROME

Eurostar to Paris, Concorde to Venice, Orient-Express to Rome via Florence. City tours and hotels 1-5 May £1,999

Orient-Express, Rome, Florence & Venice 2-3 May. £999

Venice & Paris with Concorde & Eurostar. 2-3 May £999

ORIANA, CONCORDE AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Madeira, Tenerife and Lisbon. 28 Apr- 4 May. £1,999

Pisa, Florence, Ibiza and Gibraltar. 16-22 May. £1,999

Amsterdam, Bruges and Brussels. 22-25 May. £1,599

NEW GRAND PRINCESS WITH CONCORDE

Istanbul, Kusadasi (for Ephesus), Piraeus (for Athens) and Venice, 5 nights on 19 June or 6 Aug. £1,999

Venice, Naples, Livorno (for Florence), Monte-Carlo and Barcelona, 7 nights on 24 June or 11 Aug. £2,499

QE2 WITH CONCORDE AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Cruise from Tenerife via Madeira 16-20 June. £1,699

Midnight Sun & Norwegian Fjords 20-31 July £2,999

For our brochure, phone 0181-992 4477, or write to:

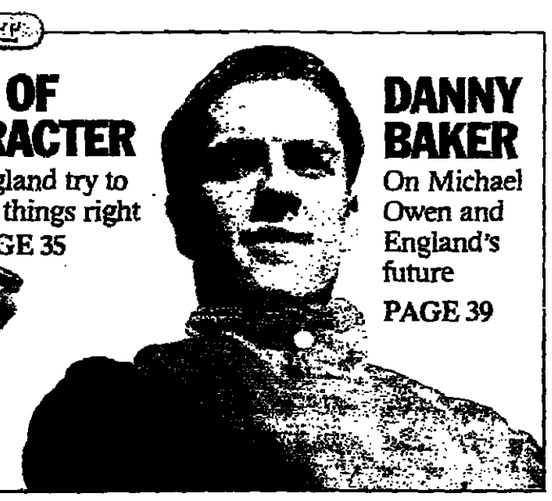
SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

صكذا من الاصل







THE FALL GUY
It's all downhill for Maier
PAGE 34

TEST OF CHARACTER
England try to put things right
PAGE 35

DANNY BAKER
On Michael Owen and England's future
PAGE 39



WEEKEND MONEY
What every lover needs to know



go
Win a trip to the Italian Grand Prix
PAGE 45

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT
11 PAGES
FEBRUARY 14 1998

SACKED MANAGER ADVANCES CONSPIRACY THEORY

Gullit calls Chelsea to account

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

TANGLED up in blue, Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager so suddenly deposed, made a sad and bitter exit from the London high life yesterday in a basement bar once used by Terry Venables as his private karaoke club. By the time he had ended his valedictory press conference, he had turned the straightforward story of one man's greed that the club has been peddling into a swirling drama of conspiracy and betrayal.

Gullit drew a compelling picture as he spoke of his shock at the events that had unfolded. He told a story that will haunt Chelsea supporters when they read it, a tale of a man who had given his word that he would stay and was relishing the challenge of continuing to build a great side, but who, when he began the process of negotiation over a new contract, gradually realised the club had "a different agenda". If Chelsea set that agenda on Thursday, yesterday Gullit wrested back the initiative.

Landrup's role 36
Gullit assessed 36
Sutton's defence 37
Match-by-match guide .. 38

His story, related before a mass of cameras and microphones, an intricate yarn of shadows and hints worthy of the Italy of the Borgias, seemed to implicate Gianfranco Zola, his star player, and Gianluca Vialli, the man who has become the new player-manager, as two of the chief movers in a sinister, unexplained plot against him.

Gullit said he had his "suspicions" about what had gone on, but that they were so dark — and that the news of his removal was still so fresh and so disorientating — that he did not feel he could reveal them. He had still not had a chance to talk to either Zola or Vialli, he said. And so the mystery about quite why Chelsea sacked him lingers.

Gullit, for once shorn of his nonchalance and bluster, said he had had a sleepless night agonising over the events that had led to his peremptory sacking on Thursday. He said he was particularly upset that he had learnt of his dismissal and Vialli's appointment on Teletext rather than from Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, or Colin Hutchinson, the managing director.

Condemning the "incredible lie, the total lie" that he had been made any sort of financial offer by the club, he admitted that he had been seeking a salary package, as player and manager, that would have paid him £2 million next season. He insisted that he would have been happy to negotiate with the club and reach a compromise, but that they sacked him without attempting it. Last night, his agent, John Smith, reiterated that claims made by Hutchinson, that Gullit had been offered £1 million, were false.

It was hard not to feel sympathy for the deposed Chelsea manager as he sat like a common dupe, asking for answers, saying he did not deserve to be treated this way, a proud man brought low by those more skilled and experienced in the ways of ruthlessness.

It seems that Gullit may have unwittingly overplayed his hand and delayed so long that he exhausted the short patience of Bates. Most of all, though, it seemed to be the thought that his position had been undermined by Zola and Vialli that pained him.

Speaking as if he was in court, referring to men he would normally address jocularly with their christian names as Mr Franco Zola and Mr Luca Vialli, he said he had been made aware of their apparent involvement in moves to bring Brian Laudrup, the Rangers forward, to the club behind his back.

The two Italians, both brought to the club by Gullit, met secretly with Laudrup on Wednesday. Gullit had been told that Laudrup could not make the journey south because his wife was ill. "I thought why doesn't he just come by himself?" Gullit said. "But then I found out he met with Mr Luca Vialli and Mr Franco Zola on Wednesday, and that means that everything had already been planned behind my back."

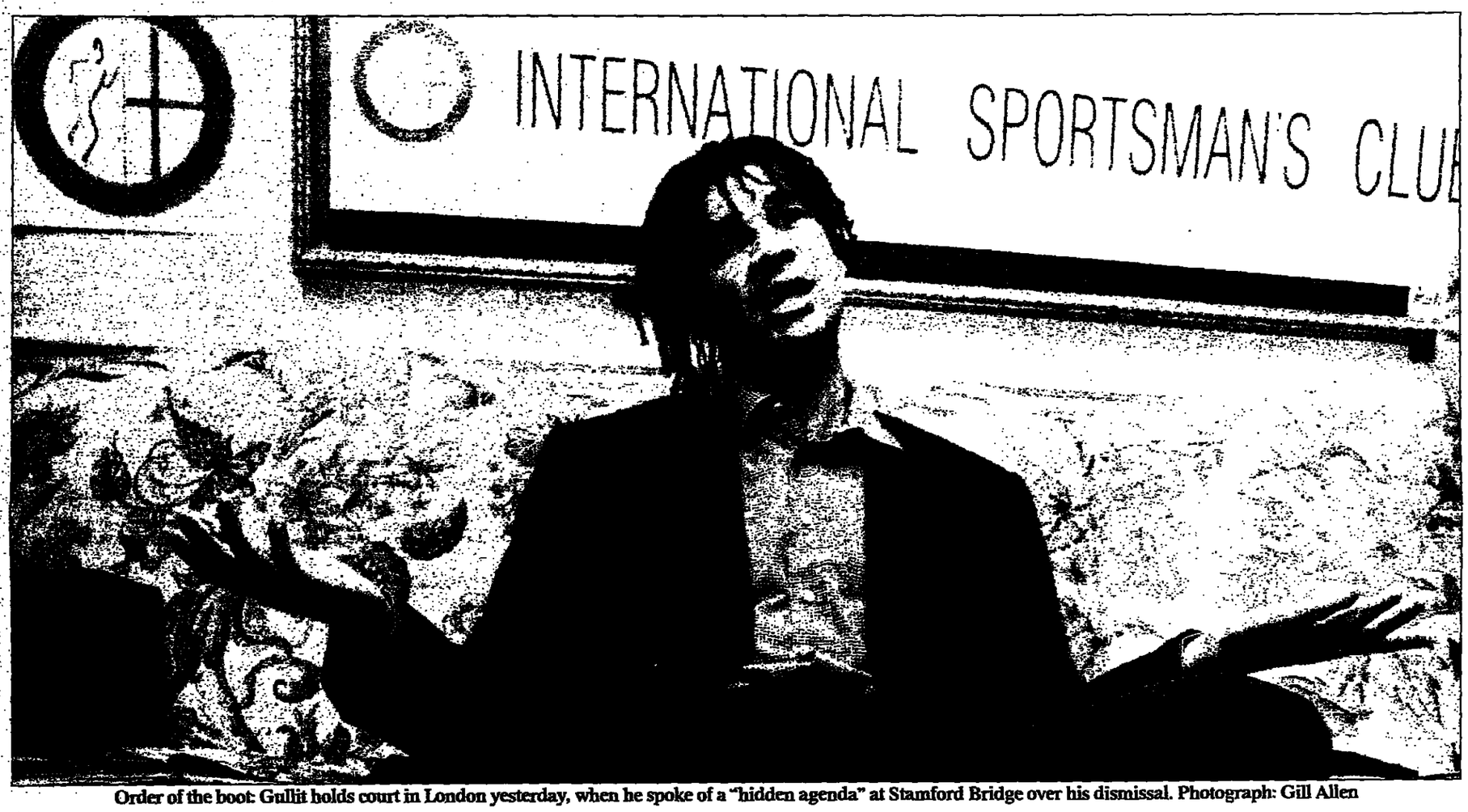
More and more details came flooding out as if in a stream of consciousness, an uncomprehending epitaph. There was the moment Bates handed him his formal letter of dismissal, the shouting match he had with Hutchinson when the chief executive had arrived at the training ground near Heathrow to tell him agreement was impossible, the telephone calls he had taken from players at a loss to understand what had gone on.

"I think I gave this club a lot," Gullit said. "I gave them success that no one could have dreamed we would have achieved. Now, I just want to know what the real reason is for me getting the sack. The money is only a stick they tried to hit me with. Even the man on the street knows that that is not the real reason.

"If they had made me an offer, I would have stayed. What has happened will be a question mark for the rest of my life, but they can never take away from me what I achieved at Chelsea. I am still confused by it all. I am used to coaches being sacked because they are at the bottom, but now one has been sacked because he has done so well.

"I had a very good time at Chelsea and I had some great plans for the club. To win the championship and maybe even something more. I am sad because I can no longer finish this."

And then he left, saying he did not know what the future held but refusing to rule out his continued presence in the FA Carling Premiership. No knives in his back, no poison in the dregs of the coffee he had been drinking, but blood on the floor of English football and a bitter taste in the mouth.



Order of the boot: Gullit holds court in London yesterday, when he spoke of a "hidden agenda" at Stamford Bridge over his dismissal. Photograph: Gill Allen



Vialli, second from right, deep in conversation with his new charges yesterday

LEBOEUF'S SADNESS AND JOY, PAGE 36

Giving Ruud the rocket the ultimate inelegance

LYNNE TRUSS

Just before the FA Cup Final last year, Ruud Gullit was asked on telly whether he was interested in signing Fabrizio Ravanelli from Middlesbrough. I have many times recollected his reply, repeating it to people who didn't appreciate the scope for finding idols in football. To the Ravanelli question, you see, Gullit made the famous shrug, rubbed his nose. "It would be inelegant at this moment to discuss that," he said. And thus, at a stroke, added a wholly original adjective to the language of footie debriefings.

This is just one of the reasons I've been making black paper chains out of crêpe since Thursday lunchtime and falling into doleful silences. Gullit's peremptory sacking genuinely evokes something of the shock of grief. They sacked a man who could not only win the FA Cup, but could say "inelegant" under pressure? It can't be true. Are they mad? Or just jealous? In the real world, you have to do something bad to get the sack. You have to *not* win the FA Cup, or something.

The difficulty for an observer, at a time like this, is to entertain two feelings at the same time. Principally, there is the feeling of curiosity, which demands facts and theories. But there is also the wounded, biffed, pit-of-the-stomach feeling, as of seeing a vandal kick a hole in a stained-glass window.

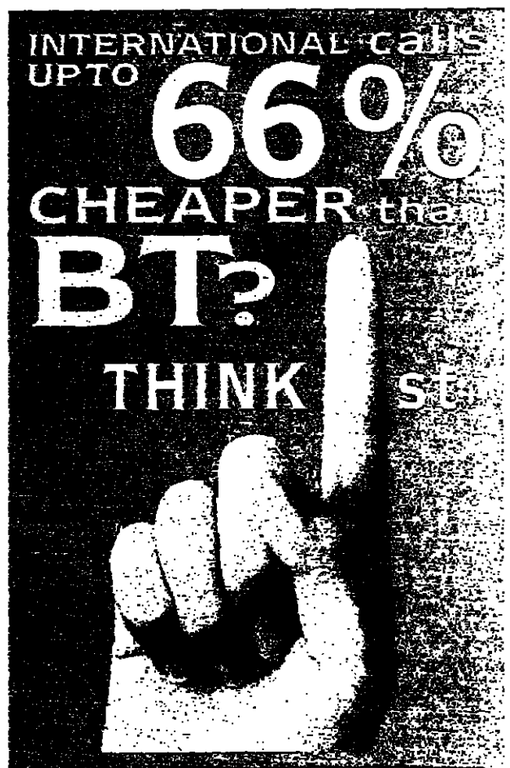
Things were not blissful at Chelsea under Gullit, they'll tell you now, gleefully. But I don't care to hear that. You're lucky I can't find my old Camelot LP because otherwise this column would be a wistful, cracked-voiced rendition of the one brief (sniff) shining moment that was (choke) known as (sniff, break down in sobs).

Nobody knows what's really gone on between Gullit and his former employers, but this sacking is nasty, whatever the cause. When Ken Bates said, without punctuation, at Thursday's press conference "It's a case of the king is dead long live the king next question", he was not paying a thoughtful tribute to the mystery of succession. He was saying that power was his conditional gift and that even Ruud Gullit was replaceable. World-class, popular, foreign? Ha. Just look around at Stamford Bridge. Spoiled for choice.

And what about the fans' feelings of attachment to Ruud? That's beneath consideration. Big-money football is not a place where brutality comes as a big surprise. Avarice is normal, as are summary justice and being escorted from the premises. But the additional shock of Gullit's dismissal — reminiscent of Kevin Keegan's — is that a chap's almost superhuman stature with fans is no protection. You admired him and believed in him, loved his flair? Well, you'll get used to admiring someone else, next question.

The biggest irony of the story is that the pretext for this sacking is money in enormous amounts, as if the culture of Chelsea Football Club were founded on anything else. If the club's first desire were for successful football, Ruud would be staying. No, it's pot-and-kettle time at Stamford Bridge. While Gullit's detractors have disliked his love of money, his vanity and his arrogance, his admirers have excused him on account of his exceptional talent and intelligence.

With Gullit gone, the vanity, love of money and arrogance remain; indeed, his sacking lays them bare. Gullit was the acceptable face of Chelsea Football Club, and they sacked him! Don't believe them when they say no man is bigger than a football club. Kevin Keegan was. If Ruud Gullit was big enough to mask the Chelsea Village, they ought to have thought twice before removing him.



Destination	BT	FT	Saving
AUSTRALIA	49p	20p	59%
FRANCE	26p	15p	42%
JAPAN	67p	23p	66%
REP. IRELAND	25p	12p	48%
USA	34p	16p	53%

All comparisons against BT standard basic rates for 1 minute call including VAT

If you've got a BT phone, you can make big savings to over 200 countries by adding First Telecom's service to it. Think before you make another international call.

FIRST TELECOM
0800 458 6666
Lines open 24 hours

هكذا من الاصل

Winter Olympic Games: All-conquering Austrian downhiller brought to earth

Canada a threat to hopes in curling

By Our Sports Staff

THE GREAT Britain women's curling team face a daunting semi-final with Canada, the favourites, after losing 8-5 to Sweden in the final round-robin match in Karuizawa yesterday. Kirsty Hay's side led 5-4 late in the preliminary-round game, but lost four points on one end to hand over victory.

Sweden and Canada finished the group stage with six wins and just one loss each, but Canada claimed top spot by virtue of having beaten their Scandinavian rivals. The Canada team features three former world champions and will provide a formidable test. In the other semi-final, Sweden will meet Denmark.

The British men's team failed to emulate their female team-mates as they bowed out. Dougie Dryburgh's rink, tipped as a medal hope before the Games, needed to beat the United States and then hope that other results went their way to reach the semi-finals.

But they failed at the first hurdle, going down 6-3 to Tim Sommerville's rink, who now play off with Sweden for the right to face Japan in the knockout stage today.

Catriona LeMay-Doan and the clap skate looked like an unbeatable combination at the Olympic speedskating oval. The Canadian, thriving on the new, hinged blades, moved halfway to her expected gold medal in the 500 metres and led the field with an Olympic record of 38.39sec. Susan Auch stood second after the first day at 38.42sec and Tomomi Okazaki, of Japan, turned in a 38.55sec in the last heat to tie third.

NAGANO

WINTER GAMES

The ice dancing competition started predictably, with Pasha Grishuk and Yevgeny Platov, of Russia, winning both compulsory dances — the golden waltz and Argentine tango — to take the lead heading into the original dance tomorrow. Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsyannikov were second, followed by Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, of France.

Germany won the third and final luge gold medal through Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt. United States teams came second and third — the first Olympic medals for the Americans in this event.

Japanese hopes of clinching a team-record third gold in the Nordic combined skiing faded when Bjarte Engen Vik, of Norway, took the halfway lead on the 90-metre hill. After big jumps by Tsugiharu Ogiwara and Junichi Kogawa had put Japan in the first two positions with two jumpers to go, Vik produced the longest leap of the day, 94.5 metres, for a points total of 241. Valery Stoliarov, of Russia, the last to go, took second place to further dampen Japanese enthusiasm. Ogiwara was third, going into the 15-kilometre cross-country race today.

Dream start, page 6

Maier's golden vision dims after one risk too many

From Rob Hughes in Nagano

THE brooding Mount Karamatsu, which ecologists claim will never be the same after man's invasion to play Olympic games, chose Friday the 13th to get even with those accused of violating its nature to pursue gold.

Shortly after 11am yesterday, Hermann Maier, the epitome of ski racers who neither fear nor properly respect the mountain, was catapulted off the face of Karamatsu, tossed 30 yards through the thin air like a rag doll and sent cascading through two sets of safety barriers. His body is bruised, apparently unbroken, his head may clear in time to race again this weekend — but the spectacle of his crash will be a defining moment of these Winter Games in the way that Kerri Strugg's almost obscene gymnastic bravery in defiance of a broken foot is synonymous with the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Maier is the best of downhillers; the most cavalier, the most reckless. He is known as "The Herminator" because rivals cannot live with him on a good day. Yesterday, he almost terminated on a bend where 11 of the 15 non-finishers lost control. Protesters want to see goshawks, not man, flying there, yet Maier's unscheduled flight will probably attract more sponsors' dollars than Jean-Luc Cretier, the less celebrated Frenchman who heeded caution, made allowances for the wind and won the Olympic title.

Cretier, France's first Olympic downhill champion since Jean-Claude Killy in 1968, was celebrating at the bottom even as Maier was crashing near the top. Both had finished long before Luca Cattaneo, of Italy, was winched off the slope by helicopter, his leg broken near the spot hereafter called Maier's Hole. Maier's Folly, more like. Poor Cattaneo; someone from the hospital called his management, asking who would pay for treatment, though later an embarrassed insurance official insisted that all Olympians are covered.

Soon, Cattaneo had company, the manager and doctor of Finland's Nordic ski team, who were injured in a head-on car crash on the mountain. Friday the 13th in the Nagano alps will go down as a vengeful day.

The summit of Mount Karamatsu was the site of a five-year conflict between conservationists who felt that the downhill course was too high and ski officials who insisted the show must go up. The compromise produced a devil of a hill for Bernhard Russi, the 1972 Olympic downhill champion, to design.

When, at last, the sun shone, skiers congregated for the fourth time this week. As they waited, the wind gusting wispishly to 8mph, north to northwesterly, Russi passed on a message that the bend into his third gate needed care. Graham Bell, the experienced British downhiller, said that the competitors heard radio messages from the first two racers down of a sudden tailwind there.

It was high on the hill, high enough to be in the sector above 1,680 metres where protesters wanted fauna and wildlife protected. Maier, during another interminable delay while men shovelled to smooth a lower section deemed dangerous, was hypertense. The scene resembled the weighing room at Aintree: racers like jockeys taut with tension, each adopting his own mental rehearsal.

When Maier's call came, his teeth clenched, the Austrian who had conquered all opponents this season shot from the start gate like a human cannonball. He was clearly too quick into the troublesome section, but rivals have been saying all winter that Maier gets away with taking inordinate risks. At least he used to.

Coming into the first element of the bend, where it required a deft change of balance, his right ski gave way. No way to stop it now. He had been on the course for 18 seconds, he was to be airborne for almost four seconds. In that time, it was a cruelly compelling sight: man flying without control, cartwheeling in space before landing heavily on his right shoulder and hip, then spiralling up again into the safety barriers and, like a horse caught at Becher's Brook, going head over heels again.

One, two, three cartwheels he made. Finally, he was still in the deep snow, disorientated but aware. They led him down the mountain, snow filling his boots. The Austria team doctor pronounced that the skier's muscular fitness and "good position in the air" had prevented serious injury.

LUCA BRUNO



Cretier takes flight on his way to France's first Olympic title in the discipline for 30 years

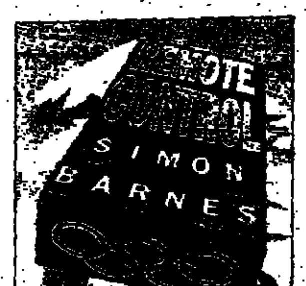
> 'He might have a little more respect for the mountain now'

Russi shrugged off the falls. "At the Games, everyone takes maximum risk," he said. Hannes Trinkl, the bronze medal-winner and the only Austrian to stay on his skis, said: "Certain people have without doubt underestimated the difficulty. Cretier, the old fox, did not."

Old, at 31, Cretier may be. Having finished no better than 24th in the 1994 Olympics, this tall, slender Frenchman glided down in 1min 50.11sec, which proved all the conditions could take. He was celebrating a touch arrogantly, giving interviews while others came tumbling down. Bell equalled his best finish in five Games, 23rd, and Paul Patrick Schwarzacher-Joyce, the Irish newcomer, took his time but finished safely at 27th. "I admire Maier, but impatience and inexperience cost him this race," Bell said. "We don't think about being scared, but we know it's life and death if we ignore the risks."

Bell, a family man, has run his last downhill race. Cretier, about to get married, plans only the next World Cup. And Maier? He planned a night's sleep, a good look in the mirror and a consultation with the doctor before, inevitably and no doubt still impulsively, launching himself back at a pace few dare match. He, after all, has known anonymity as a bricklayer; he prefers fame and fortune as a high-flier. But he just might now have a little more respect for the mountain.

Spectacular fall from grace is perfect television



It was one of those single perfect moments in sport and only television can bring it to us. All sporting life is there and, in particular, all of Olympian sporting life. Television made sure that all the world was in the right place at the right time — that is, apart from the few unfortunates who were watching the event on the side of a mountain near Nagano.

No live spectator can see every yard of a downhill skiing course, but everyone else in the world can. Watching sport live is quite different to watching television. Both methods have their points, whether you are talking about understanding an event or enjoying it.

But the fall of Hermann Maier was a perfect made-for-television accident. One second swooping inexorably downhill towards his golden destiny, the next hurtling sideways through the air, as if attached to the safety fence by an unusually strong piece of aeroplane elastic.

Failure in ski racing is normally measured in thousandths of a second, but not on this occasion. Failure does not get more total than tumbling to a grisly doom like an extra in a Clint Eastwood film. Maier, not feeling lucky.

Now there are two periods in any Olympic Games. The second is action. They shave off the thousandths, they hurtle into safety fences and then we have a result. Triumph and disaster and every journo knows to treat those two decent stories just the same.

But action is preceded by the phoney war. Journos write a million previews: so and so is poised for gold, so and so has super-powers. The poor athlete must balance unrealistic expectation against realistic dreams.

The perfect press conference is part of the perfect preparation. I remember from past Summer Games, Flo-Jo's husky whispers [illegible], Carl Lewis's cock-certainty, Michael Johnson's chilly arrogance. We wrote them all up as gold-medal bankers and, by George, they got it. At these Winter Games, it was Maier who got the Flo-Jo treatment.

Now the great thing about the Olympic Games is that they are the best. More — the best against the best. Sure, all the leading competitors are used to elite competition, but no one gets used to the Olympics. The Olympic Games raise the stakes to unimaginable heights. Backgammon is a different game when the doubling cube is turned up to 64, but at the Olympics you bring a second doubling cube into play. At the Olympics, all stakes are multiplied by 64 squared.

There are competitors who win everything except the Olympics. There are others, a strange breed, who only excel in the Olympics' rarified air that they alone can breathe. Mountains are most often climbed the difficult way, but nothing in sport can match the severity of the North Face of Mount Olympus. Some are inspired by its terrors, others condemned to vertigo.

Maier the unstoppable was the man set to beat Jean-Claude Killy and win four golds instead of a mere three. He reached this summit beyond all summits of common sport, looked down and his head started to swim. And then the downhill moment and television's vivid dramatisation of a pretender's fall. In that one second, Maier was revealed as an athlete a fraction short of the top class, a flat-track bully of the slopes.

In a way, the boycotting snowboarders are right. The Olympics are too much. They ask too much of a competitor. The audience of billions, the appallingly high stakes. In the real, essential Olympic sports, the chance comes but once in four years and failure is the most impossibly cruel thing in sport. It is cruelty beyond measure — that is what makes the Olympics irresistible.

I remember the story of the cox, when the Searle brothers won the coxed pair in rowing in Barcelona. In their final impossible surge for gold, he bellowed, I am told: "If not [illegible] — WHEN? If not you — WHO?" Every Olympic competitor has his own secret voice howling just these words in his ear. Not everyone can bear to listen.

Maier, in that one perfectly-seen moment, plunged into the telephone kiosk, ripped off his cape and his boots, put on his glasses and his suit and emerged as Clark Kent. The safer option.



Television pictures capture Maier's horrific fall in graphic detail

RESULTS FROM NAGANO

ALPINE SKIING

MEN: Downhill: 1, J-L Cretier (Fr) 1min 50.11sec; 2, L Kjus (Nor) 1:50.51; 3, H Trinkl (Austria) 1:50.63; 4, J Gruenenfelder (Switz) 1:50.64; 5, E Podivinsky (Can) 1:50.71; 6, K Ghedina (It) 1:50.76; 7, A Schifferer (Austria) 1:50.77; 8, D Cuche (Switz) 1:50.91; 9, K Rasmussen (US) 1:51.09; 10, P Jaerbyn (Swe) 1:51.22. Other positions: 23, G Bell (GB) 1:53.93; 27, P Schwarzacher-Joyce (Ire) 1:58.71. Did not finish: A Freshwater (GB).

COMBINED DOWNHILL: 1, G Mader (Austria) 1min 34.83sec; 2, L Kjus (Nor) 1:34.99; 3, C Mayer (Austria) 1:35.06; 4, E Selera (It) 1:35.77; 5, A Brezavsek (Slovenia) 1:35.94; 6, M Reiter (Austria) 1:36.21; 7, A Fattori (It) 1:36.29; 8, P Pen (Slovenia) 1:36.98; 9, A Bachleda (Pol) 1:37.04; 10, J Hasler (Liech) 1:37.88. Other position: 15, P Schwarzacher-Joyce (Ire) 1:42.81.

OVERALL (two slalom runs and downhill runs in brackets): 1, M Reiter (Austria) (1min 36.21sec, 1:31.85, 47.37, 44.48) 3min 8.06sec; 2, L Kjus (Nor) (1:34.99, 1:23.66, 48.09, 45.57) 3:09.65; 3, C Mayer (Austria) (1:35.06, 1:35.05, 49.30, 45.75) 3:10.11; 4, G Mader (Austria) (1:34.83, 1:35.36, 49.19, 46.17) 3:10.19; 5, A Bachleda (Pol) (1:37.04, 1:34.49, 49.02, 45.47) 3:11.53; 6, A Fattori (It) (1:36.29, 1:40.71, 55.45, 45.26) 3:17.00; 7, A Brezavsek (Slovenia) (1:35.94, 1:44.15, 55.33, 48.82) 3:20.09; 8, P Pen (Slovenia) (1:36.98, 1:43.83, 54.21, 49.82) 3:20.91; 9, J Hasler (Liech) (1:37.88, 1:45.27, 54.39, 50.88) 3:23.15. Other positions: 15, P Schwarzacher-Joyce (Ire) (1:42.81, 1:56.22, 1:00.11, 56.11) 3:29.23. Did not finish: 20, J Ormond (GB); 27, A Freshwater (GB).

CURLING

MEN. Seventh preliminary round: Switzerland 8 Sweden 2; Norway 10 Canada 8; United States 6 Great Britain 3; Japan 7 Germany 5. Switzerland 8 Sweden 2; Norway 10 Canada 8. First stage play-off for fourth qualifying place: United States 5 Sweden 2. Canada, Norway, Switzerland qualify for semi-finals.

WOMEN: Final preliminary round: United States 10 Japan 2; Denmark 8 Norway 3; Sweden 8 Great Britain 5; Canada 8 Germany 5. Canada, Great Britain, Sweden and Denmark qualify for semi-finals.

FIGURE SKATING

WOMEN: After second compulsory dance: 1, P Grishuk and Y Platov (Russ) 0.4 factored placements; 2, A Krylova and O Ovsyannikov (Russ) 0.8; 3, M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) 1.2; 4 equal, S-L Bourne and V Kraatz (Can), I Lobacheva and I Averbukh (Russ) 1.8; 6 equal, B Fusar-Poli and M Margaglio (It) 2.4, E Punsalan and J Swallow (US) 2.4, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (Ukr) 2.4; 9, M Drobiazko and P Vanagas (Lith) 2.8; 10, S Moniotte and P Lavanchy (Fr) 4.0.

LUGE

MEN: Doubles: 1, Germany (S Krausse and J Behrendt) 1min 41.105sec (50.592sec, 50.513); 2, United States I (C Thorpe and G Sheer) 1:41.127 (50.634, 50.493); 3, United States II (M Grimmette and B Martin) 1:41.217 (50.716, 50.501); 4, Austria (T and M Schiegl) 1:41.421 (50.846, 50.575); 5, Italy (K Brugger and W Huber) 1:41.768 (50.897, 50.871); 6, Italy (G Plankensteiner and O Haselrieder) 1:41.917 (51.084, 50.833); 7, Ukraine (I Urbanski and A Muhin) 1:41.968 (51.262, 50.706); 8, Germany (S Skel and S Woeller) 1:42.224 (51.408, 50.816); 9, Russia (D Tchaban and V Kneib) 1:42.393 (51.370, 51.023); 10, Russia (A Demtchenko and S Kolobaev) 1:42.556 (51.515, 51.041).

NORDIC SKIING

MEN: Combined (after ski jumping, first jump and second jump in brackets): 1, B Vik (Nor) (116.0, 125.0) 241.0; 2, V Stoliarov (Russ) (120.0, 115.0) 235.0; 3, T Ogiwara (Japan) (112.5, 120.0) 232.5; 4, J Kogawa (Japan) (112.0, 120.0) 232.0; 5, C Bieler (Austria) (112.5, 118.5) 231.0; 6, S Lajunen (Fin) (108.5, 122.0) 230.5; 7, M Stecher (Austria) (106.0, 122.5) 228.5; 8, M Kucera (Cz) (110.5, 117.5) 228.0; 9, K Ogiwara (Japan) (107.5, 118.5) 226.0; 10, J Deimel (Ger) (113.5, 107.5) 221.0; 11, N Bal (Fr) (110.0, 108.5) 218.5; 12, J Matura (Cz) (104.5, 113.5) 218.0; 13, T Lodwick (US) (101.0, 116.0) 217.0; 14, T Nurmela (Fin) (110.5, 103.0) 213.5; 15, D Sinitsyn (Russ) (110.5, 103.0) 213.5.

ICE HOCKEY

MEN: Group C: Russia 9 Kazakhstan 2. Group D: Sweden 4 United States 2; Canada 5 Belarus 0.

SPEED SKATING

WOMEN: 500 metres: First run: 1, C Lemay-Doan (Can) 38.39sec; 2, S Auch (Can) 38.42; 3, T Okazaki (Japan) 38.55; 4, K Shimazaki (Japan) 38.75; 5, F Schenk (Ger) 38.88; 6, C Witty (US) 39.09; 7, S Zhurova (Russ) 39.11; 8, M Garbrecht (Ger) 39.11; 9, M Timmer (Holl) 39.12; 10, S Voelker (Ger) 39.19.

NAGANO DETAILS

TIMETABLE (all times GMT): Today: 2345: Alpine skiing, men's Super-G. Midnight: Curling, men's and women's tie-breakers (if necessary). Nordic skiing, men's 15km pursuit. 0910: Figure skating, men's free programme. 0115: Alpine skiing, women's downhill. 0300, 0700 and 1100: Ice hockey, women. 0400: Nordic skiing, combined, individual, 15km. 0500: Curling, women's semi-finals. 0545 and 0845: Ice hockey, men. 0600: Bobsleigh, two-man. 0730: Speed skating, women's 500m. 0900: Curling, men's semi-finals.

TOMORROW: Midnight: Curling, third-place play-offs, men and women. 0030: Ski jumping, individual K120. 0115: Alpine skiing, women's combined downhill. 0400: Curling, women's final. Biathlon, women's 7.5km. 0445 and 0845: Ice hockey, men. 0600: Bobsleigh, two-man. Speed skating, men's 1,000m. 0800: Curling, men's final. 1000: Figure skating, original dance.

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: 0640-1040; 1325-1450. BBC2: 1040-1335. Eurosport: 0615-0715. Tomorrow: BBC1: 0550-0720; BBC2: 0000-0055; 0815-1100; 1330-1625; 1900-1930. Eurosport: 0715-0445.

	G	S	B	Tot
Germany	5	4	4	13
Russia	4	3	0	7
Norway	3	5	3	11
United States	2	1	3	6
Finland	2	1	2	5
Japan	2	1	0	3
France	2	0	0	2
Austria	1	2	6	9
Holland	1	2	1	4
Canada	1	1	1	3
Switzerland	1	0	1	2
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Italy	0	3	1	4
Czech Rep	0	1	1	2
Ukraine	0	1	0	1
Belarus	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL
Reports and scores from the FA Cup and FA Carling Premiership
Call 0839 555 562
Reports and scores from the Nationwide League
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 50p per minute

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Semi-final: Second leg: London Leopards 90 Sheffield Sharks 92 (Sheffield Sharks win 185-175 on agg).
MEN'S EUROLEAGUE: Group E: Turk Telekom (Tur) 69 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 83. Group F: Real Madrid (Sp) 82 Benetton Treviso (It) 54. Group H: Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 78 Teamsystem Bologna (It) 66; Ulkerspor (Tur) 63 AEK Athens (Gr) 70.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Thursday: Charlotte 90 Chicago 92; Detroit 95 Milwaukee 83; Miami 101 Indiana 110; Philadelphia 91 Dallas 90; Minnesota 89 Orlando 96; San Antonio 105 Seattle 106; Los Angeles Clippers 104 Washington 110; Los Angeles Lakers 105 Golden State 99. Friday: Cleveland 103 Toronto 94; Portland 115 Phoenix 110; Utah 118 Boston 100; Houston 112 Vancouver 103; Sacramento 87 Denver 84.

BOWLS

VIVIENNE TROPHY (English Women's Indoor Bowling Association inter-club championship): Quarter-finals: Lawson Park bt Cumbria 96-65; Banbury Cross bt Norfolk 111-44; Dartford Stone Lodge bt Bentham 85-75; Dolphin (Poole) bt Teignbridge 94-55.
COUNTY MATCH: Cambridgeshire tied with Hertfordshire 120-120 (at St Neots).
MERTHYR TYDFIL: Welsh Ladies IBA championships: Finals. Singles: J Davies (Ogwr) bt J Willis (Swansea) 21-3. Under-25 singles: P Summerfield (Renfrewshire) bt L Oliver (Llanelli) 21-18. Pairs: J Davies and B Morgan (Renfrewshire) bt C Morgan and L Davies (Port Talbot) 32-10. Triples: S King, M Davies, D Rowlands (Renfrewshire) bt M Agreman, M Cox, J Thornton (Ogwr) 12-11. Fours: M Davies, S Gough, J Davies, B Morgan (Renfrewshire) bt P Harris, V Attwood, C Morgan, J Davies (Ogwr) 22-11.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Christchurch (first day of four): Canterbury 100 (P A Strang 4-20); Zimbabweans 129-5 (G W Flower 64).
SUPERSPORT SERIES (first day of four): Cape Town: Griqualand West 239 (W Bossenger 85, M George 6-61); Western Province 0-0.
SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adelaide (final day of four): Victoria 442-4 dec and 178-6 (J Amberger 53, D M Jones 53 not out, B Young 4-62); South Australia 205 and 414 (T Nielsen 115, G S Blewett 97; D W Fleming 4-72). Victoria win by four wickets. Hobart (third day of four): Queensland 175 and 292-7 (A Symonds 141); Tasmania 292 (D W Hills 72, D C Boon 52, R Tucker 52; B Creevey 5-51).

CYCLING

MEDITERRANEAN TOUR: Second stage (La Londe to Grau-les Baux, 115km): 1, M Bartoli (It) 2hr 40min 30sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr); 3, R Massi (Fr) both same time. Overall: 1, Massi, 6:11:26; 2, P Jonker (Holl) at 50sec; 3, B Hamburger (Den) same time.

FOOTBALL

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP FIFTH ROUND DRAW: Everton v Hull City or Ipswich Town; Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers or Blackburn Rovers; Peterborough United v Crewe Alexandra; Arsenal v Middlesbrough or Leeds United. ☐ Ties to be played on or before March 7.
UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: England 1 Israel 0 (at Northwich Victoria).
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shelbourne 3 Kilkenny 0.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 1 West Ham 0.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Studley BKL 1 GPT (Coventry) 0.
PORTUGUESE CUP: Quarter-final replay: Benfica 1 Gil Vicente 0.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Chateauroux 2 Lens 1; Rennes 1 Auxerre 1.
SPANISH CUP: Quarter-final, second leg: Real Betis 2 Real Zaragoza 2 (Zaragoza win 5-2 on agg).
AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP: Angola 3 Namibia 3; Tunisia 2 Democratic Republic of Congo 1; Togo 2 Ghana 1.
CONCACAF GOLD CUP: Semi-final: Mexico 1 Jamaica 0 (aet).

GOLF

MELBOURNE: Australian Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 134: M Goggin 66, 68; S Appleby 66, 68. 135: B Hughes 63, 72; R Russell (GB) 65, 70. 136: R Gibson (Can) 69, 67. 138: F Nobilo (NZ) 70, 68; R Allenby 68, 70. 139: M O'Meara (US) 67, 72; D Chopra (Swe) 67, 72; D McKenzie 71, 68; J Dawes 72, 67. 140: L Parsons 75, 65; P Lonard 70, 70; P McWhinney 72, 68; T Carolan 68, 72; S Ecob 70, 70. 141: L Westwood (GB) 75, 66; M Brooks (US) 69, 72; P Devenport (NZ) 70, 71; P O'Malley 72, 69; J Senden 70, 71; P Fowler 71, 70; S Tait 72, 69; R Pampling 72, 69.
JOHANNESBURG: South African PGA: Leaders after two rounds (South Africa unless stated): 132: A Johnstone (Zim) 68, 64. 135: S Dunlap (US) 69, 66. 136: E Els (SA) 68, 69. 139: R Muntz (Hol) 72, 67; S Struver (Ger) 69, 70. 140: P Price (GB) 69, 71; R Jacquelin (Fr) 72, 68. 141: M Gronberg (Swe) 73, 68; A Cruse (SA) 69, 72; B Dredge (GB) 69, 72. 142: N van Rensburg (SA) 74, 68; B Collins (US) 73, 69; M MacKenzie (GB) 74, 68; G Petersen (US) 71, 71; J Hawksworth (GB) 71, 71; S van Vuuren (SA) 70, 72.
HAWAIIAN OPEN: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 63: J Huston, D Ogrin. 64: T Byrum. 65: D Ishii, M Reid, C Strange, W Austin, J Maggert, T Dodds (SA). 66: T Herron, S Stricker, P Goydos, F Allen (SA). Other score: 74: J Haeggman (Swe).

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open: Quarter-finals: M Windows bt N Smith 15-9, 12-15, 15-11, 3-15, 18-17; T Sawrey-Cookson bt J Male 4-15, 15-12, 16-13, 10-15, 17-14; W Boone bt P Brake 15-10, 15-4, 15-6; M Hue Williams bt M Hubbard 15-5, 15-4, 15-9. Semi-finals: Sawrey-Cookson bt Windows 15-8, 17-16, 15-3, 15-12; Boone bt Hue Williams 15-9, 15-12, 10-15, 13-18, 15-5, 15-2.

RUGBY UNION

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Second round: Northumbria 31 Chichester Institute 3; Leeds 6 Bristol 25; Hull 5 Durham 32; St Mary's University College 19 Harper Adams Agricultural College 22; Exeter 10 UWI Cardiff 23; Loughborough 23 Brunel University West London 9; Manchester 11 Newcastle 31; Swansea 31 Birmingham 7. Quarter-final draw: Swansea v Newcastle; UWIC v Loughborough; Bristol v Durham; Harper Adams v Northumbria (ties to be played on February 25).
YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: Wales Youth 29 Romania 13 (at Neath).
UNDER-15 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Yorkshire 16 Lancashire 15.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (Auckland to São Sebastião): Fifth leg: Positions (as at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to São Sebastião): 1, EF Language (Swe) 2,861.4 miles; 2, Swedish Match (Swe) 2,917.6; 3, Toshiba (US) 2,973.2; 4, Merit Cup (Mon) 2,992.8; 5, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 3,001.2; 6, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 3,091.5; 7, Chessie Racing (US) 3,101.1; 8, Silk Cut (GB) 3,485.7; 9, EF Education (Swe) 4,087.5.

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: Regal Scottish Open: First round (England unless stated): J Ferguson bt S O'Connor (Ire) 5-4; M Judge (Ire) bt J Lardner (Scot) 5-2; D Dale (Wales) bt B Jones 5-3; S Judd bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-4; M Bennett (Wales) bt I Brumby 5-3; D Finbow bt D Clarke 5-2; P McCullagh bt J Johnston 5-3; G Greene bt N Walker 5-2; D O'Kane (NZ) wo J Woodman; E Henderson (Scot) bt M Dziewialtowski (Scot) 5-3; L Griffin bt A Davies (Wales) 5-2; S Storey bt J Birch 5-3; N Pearce bt I McCulloch 5-3.

SQUASH

MERKSEM, Belgium: Flanders Open: Quarter-finals: C Walker (Eng) bt N Taylor (Eng) 15-8, 15-5, 15-2; J White (Aus) bt D Evans (Wales) 15-10, 17-16, 7-15, 15-7; M Heath (Scot) bt T Hands (Eng) [illegible] 15-14, 15-6; S Davison [illegible] (Eng) 9-15, 13-15, 15-7, 15-11, [illegible]

TENNIS

DUBAI: Dubai Open: [illegible] 8-4; J Bjorkman [illegible] 6-1.
ST PETERSBURG: [illegible]
SAN JOSE: [illegible]
P Sampras (US) bt J Burillo (Sp) 6-3, 7-6; T Martin (US) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-3, 7-6; Van Lottum [illegible] 7-5, 6-7, 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Washington (US) 7-[illegible]
PARIS: Paris women's indoor Open: Second round: D van Roost (Bel) bt W Probst (Ger) 5-7, 6-2, 7-6; I Majoli (Cro) bt F Labat (Arg) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; A Huber (Ger) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4; M Pierce (Fr) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-1, 1-6, 6-1. Quarter-finals: J Novotna (Cz) bt B Paulus (Austria) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4; Van Roost bt Majoli 7-5, 6-3; Pierce bt Huber 1-6, 6-1, 6-2.
CHIGWELL: LTA men's tournament: Second round: O Van Lottum (Bel) bt J Delgado (GB) 7-6, 6-4; K Flygt (Swe) bt W Arthurs (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; M Balgraver (Holl) bt C Bennett (GB) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; R Matheson (GB) bt T Guardiola (Fr) 7-6, 6-4; M Navarra (It) bt W Neefs (Bel) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; A Pretzsch (Ger) bt A Parmar (GB) 6-7, 7-5, 6-0; F Loven (Swe) bt A Weber (Ger) 6-2, 6-7, 7-6; M Hellstrom (Swe) bt H Koll (Nor) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Matheson bt Balgraver 7-6, 7-6; Pretzsch bt Navarra 6-4, 6-2; Van Lottum bt Flygt 7-6, 6-4; Loven bt Hellstrom 5-3, 5-7, 6-4.
BIRMINGHAM: LTA women's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Pullin (GB) bt N Egorova (Russ) 0-6, 6-2, 6-4; J Ward (GB) bt [illegible] (Japan) 6-2, 7-5; M Persson (Swe) bt O Ivanova (Russ) 6-2, 7-6; G Arn (Ger) bt S Star (Tur) 3-6, 7-6, 6-0. Semi-finals: Pullin bt Persson 6-2, 6-3; Ward bt G Arn (Ger) 6-3, 7-6.
DAVIS CUP: Euro-African zone: Ukraine 1 Denmark 1 (in Kiev); Finland 1 Croatia 0 (in Helsinki). Asia/Oceania zone: Uzbekistan 2 China 0 (in Tashkent); Japan 2 Indonesia 0 (in Tokyo).

هكذا من الاصل

West Indies captain dismissed by Middlesex seamer for third time in series

Fraser tilts balance towards England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

MOST people in these parts regarded Brian Lara against Angus Fraser as a *mismatch*. It was poetry against prose, the exotic against the merely efficient. Yesterday, after Fraser had dismissed the West Indies captain for the third time in a week, most people were strangely silent.

The injustice done to Fraser by England's failure to win the second Test was immense. Typically, he has resented it not a jot and now, as England searched for wickets on the first afternoon of a new game they dared not lose, Fraser provided them.

In an 18-ball spell shortly after lunch, Fraser took three wickets for four runs. Sherwin Campbell and Carl Hooper had already fallen to him when his pervasive control brought an unforced error from Lara and an agonising wait for all England.

Lara, having taken seven overs to move from 39 to 42, pulled hotheadedly from outside off stump. The bottom edge was claimed by Jack Russell, plunging forward, but it required a conference between the two standing umpires and a referral to their colleague watching the television replays before Lara was dispatched, to the mute mourning of his home crowd.

England, having chosen to bowl and taken only one wicket before lunch, were thus suddenly in the ascendancy as they sought to nullify the shattering defeat last Monday. Though Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Jimmy Adams prevented further losses before tea, the frailty of the West Indian batting was once more under scrutiny.

Unlike its predecessor, an epic played to near-empty stands, this was a Test match with atmosphere. England followers have arrived here by the hundred, pale turning to pink beneath the straw hats, and local support has been strikingly regenerated by a winning team under the local hero.

The new three-tier stand, having stood incomplete and deserted last week, now filled swiftly. In front of it were the symbols of Caribbean cricket-watching, 1998 style — a miniature swimming pool and a rough terracing area bordered by massive loudspeakers. Amid the bikinis and shorts, the pounding music and the dancing providing an air of good-natured bedlam, a Mr Blobby dummy appeared, complete with MCC bow-tie.

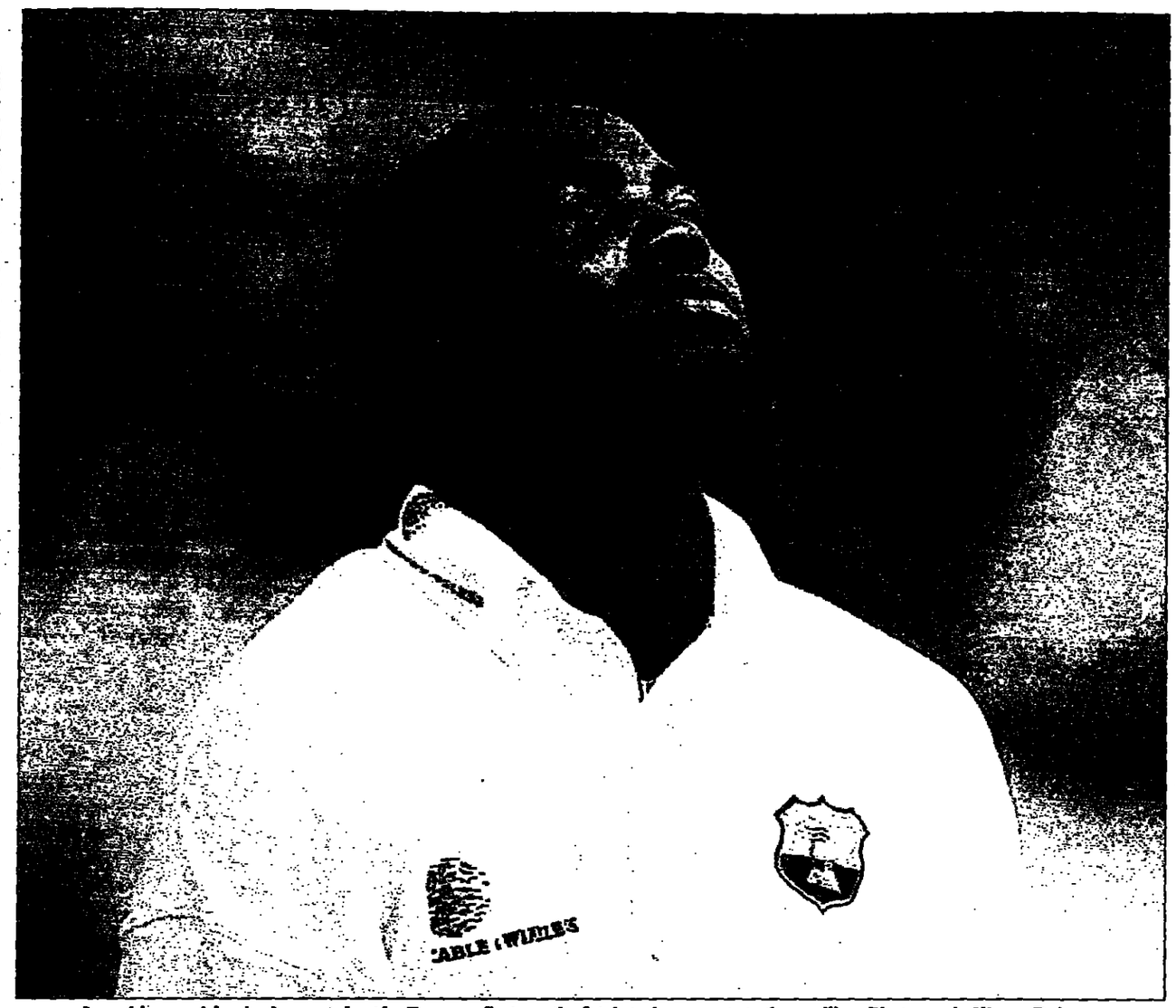
England found no early cause to appreciate such frivolity. The threat of falling 2-0 behind hung heavy over anxious preliminaries, summarised by a player lost and a toss won. Adam Hollioake was ruled out by a back strain and with the luckless Mark Ramprakash bed-ridden with influenza, the vacancy went to Mark Butcher, who will bat at No 6.

The pitch was much barer of grass than its fickle neighbour, but it had not entirely dried out after the heavy watering of the square on Monday. Both captains wished to bowl first, but Atherton called correctly for the third successive Test. Initially, however, he was to be disappointed, not so much by the response of his bowlers — though they remained variable — but the response of the pitch.

Its pace was sedate, its bounce acceptably even. Though there was movement in the air and off the seam, it was not excessive. The West Indies' opening pair is an insecure unit, but, for more than an hour, it might have been Greenidge and Haynes settling in for another massive stand.

Dean Headley began with his customary no-ball and failed to maintain a consistent line. Andy Caddick, bristling over the proper criticism of his waywardness last week, bowled his first four overs for nine, but Atherton had experimented with spin well inside the first hour.

The recall of Caddick, with the breeze at his back, brought instant results. His first ball started on off stump and swung away, Williams edging it low to first slip. Lara began by off-driving the next for four, but in four overs of impressive probing and varied pace, Caddick might easily have found more success.



Lara, his promising innings cut short by Fraser, reflects on the fatal stroke en route to the pavilion. Photograph: Kieran Doherty

Fraser commanded respect from Lara, but when he erred in length he was mercilessly punished. A half-volley was straight-driven for four and the over-adjustment, next ball, was pulled for four more.

The session ended with West Indies enviably placed, but only those with very short memories would read much into it. Their score stood at 72 for one; England, a week ago, were 70 for one at the same stage. On both occasions, the afternoon has brought sharp contrast.

For England, the portents could hardly have been more discouraging. In another of the lapses that have blighted his career, Caddick squandered most of his morning merit marks with an opening over costing 19 — an edged four and single for Campbell, followed by four imperious strokes that took Lara from 25 to 39.

This, however, was a peak to which West Indies would not aspire again. The next 11 overs brought only 13 more runs and saw three wickets fall. From 93 for one, they subsided to 100 for four, a stunning transformation capped by the dismissal of Lara.

There was little discernible help for Fraser from the pitch. His rewards were earned by adherence to accuracy, which may sound unexciting but is precisely why he was included on this tour against batsmen who instinctively rebel against such restraint.

He struck first while Caddick was still contemplating his mauling, a prime time for a wicket. Campbell's footwork let him down as he thrust forward to a ball of impeccable length and Thorpe's second catch of the day was a replica of his first.

Four days ago, England would have begged or bought the wicket of Carl Hooper, but never came close to it. Now, a different day, a different game, it was donated. Hooper driving at a good-length ball as if it was a half-volley and Butcher, leaping high to his right at cover, plucking it out of the air one-handed.

Lara, who had fallen twice to Fraser in the second Test, departed with a look of self-disgust after failing to conquer him again. Huge responsiblity now rested on Chanderpaul and in his idiosyncratic way, often right back on his stumps to balls of full length, he shepherded the damaged innings into the final session.

PORT OF SPAIN SCOREBOARD

England won toss

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Thorpe b Fraser ... 28
(129min, 88 balls, 4 fours)
S C Williams c Thorpe b Caddick ... 24
(68min, 48 balls, 2 fours)
*B C Lara c Russell b Fraser ... 42
(90min, 53 balls, 7 fours)
C L Hooper c Butcher b Fraser ... 1
(11min, 11 balls)
S Chanderpaul not out ... 20
(121min, 90 balls)
J C Adams not out ... 10
(104min, 68 balls)
Extras (nb 5) ... 5
Total (4 wkts, 59 overs, 264min) ... 130

†D Williams, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin, N A M McLean and C A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36 (Campbell 11), 2-93 (Lara 39), 3-95 (Lara 40), 4-100 (Chanderpaul 3).

BOWLING: Headley 14-0-40-0 (nb 2, 4 fours, 5-0-18-0, 9-0-11-0, 6-0-11-0); Caddick 18-7-49-1 (6 fours; 4-2-9-0, 5-1-13-1, 5-2-22-0, 2-1-4-0, 2-1-1-0); Fraser 16-7-29-3 (nb 2; 3 fours; 7-2-16-0, 7-4-9-3, 2-1-2-0); Tufnell 9-5-11-0 (nb 1; 3-2-3-0, 6-3-8-0); Butcher 2-1-1-0 (1-1-0-0, 1-0-1-0)

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 72-1 (28 overs, 121mn, Campbell 21, Lara 25) Tea: 127-4 (55 overs, 243mn, Chanderpaul 18, Adams 10).

ENGLAND: *M A Atherton, A J Stewart, J P Crawley, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M A Butcher, †R C Russell, A R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and E Nicholls. Third umpire: C E Cumberbatch Match referee: B N Jarman (Australia).

SERIES DETAILS: First (Kingston) Match drawn Second (Port of Spain) West Indies won by three wickets.

TESTS TO COME: Fourth (Georgetown) February 27-March 3. Fifth (Bridgetown). March 12-16. Sixth (St John's) March 20-24

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Ormond leaves frustration behind

JIMMY ORMOND, the Leicestershire fast bowler, has experienced his frustrations in Sri Lanka, but everything came right as he helped to put England A on top on the first day of the third unofficial Test match against Sri Lanka here yesterday. In 18 hostile and accurate overs, he took four for 38 as Sri Lanka stumbled to 235 for eight.

This was another excellent performance by England, who need only draw to win the series, in difficult conditions. Sri Lanka were intent on making good first use of a good pitch and the ground is situated close to the heavily congested Galle Road.

"This was my hardest day's work here by a long shot," Ormond said. "It is the most overs I have bowled, on top of which there was the exceptional heat, humidity and smog.

FROM SIMON WILDE IN MORATUWA

There was a lot of coughing out there. I have not been bowling well, so it is important I go back to England with this behind me."

Ormond's first intervention came in a fiery spell after lunch when Sri Lanka, led by the free-flowing bat of Chandika Hathurusinghe, whose bandanna was more table-cloth than handkerchief, were proceeding smoothly. Ormond bowled Ranatunga and quickly took the measure of Tillekeratne, discomforting him with a rising delivery that struck him in the mouth — removing a tooth — and then producing a snorter to have him caught behind off a glove.

Ormond returned in the last session with the new ball to remove Hewage and the shrinking Jayawardene in the same over, undoing much of the good work of the Sri Lanka middle order, which had raised the score from 116 for four to 225 for five.

Hollioake then rounded off a good session for England by having De Silva, who had batted for 90 minutes, caught in the gully in the penultimate over. Hollioake's two wickets ought to have been three, but Sales put down Hewage before he had scored; he went on to make 44.

Ormond's lion-hearted efforts were the more necessary because Powell was troubled by a back complaint and left the field after delivering five overs, while Cosker, despite bowling Hathurusinghe behind his legs for 90, was also below par.

SCOREBOARD FROM MORATUWA

SRI LANKA A: First Innings

D P Samaraweera b Giles ... 22
U C Hathurusinghe b Cosker ... 90
S Ranatunga b Ormond ... 12
*H P Tillekeratne c Read b Ormond ... 11
M C Mendis lbw b Hollioake ... 9
P Hewage c and b Ormond ... 44
B de Silva c Ealham b Hollioake ... 31
†P Jayawardene lbw b Ormond ... 0
N Bandaritleke not out ... 6
G P Wickremasinghe not out ... 0
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 5) ... 10
Total (8 wkts) ... 235

M Bandara to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-64, 2-91, 3-107, 4-116, 5-165, 6-225, 7-225, 8-232.

BOWLING: Hollioake 20-6-59-2; Ormond 18-5-38-4; Ealham 10-4-25-0; Giles 20-4-35-1; Powell 5-0-28-0; Cosker 17-5-47-1.

ENGLAND A: *N V Knight, D L Maddy, O A Shah, M A Ealham, D J G Sales, B C Hollioake, A F Giles, †C M W Read, J Ormond, J C Powell, D A Cosker.

Umpires: M M Mendis and S Amarasinghe.

Mandela helps settle Test dispute

AFTER deliberations that went on into the early hours of the morning and were interrupted by telephone calls from Nelson Mandela, the cricket boards of South Africa and Pakistan decided that the first Test will start in Johannesburg this morning, a day later than scheduled. Quite what state the touring party will be in is another matter.

Of their two players who were mugged on Wednesday, Saqlain Mushtaq will play but Mohammad Akram, who saw an orthopaedic surgeon yesterday, is unlikely to be fit. He is suffering from bruised ribs and a cut hand. The Pakistanis reckon they can put out a side, but will be sending for one or two replacements before the start of the second Test.

Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, whose contract has been extended until the end of the World Cup next year, admitted that if any of his players had been attacked in Pakistan, they, too, would have had their doubts about participating in an imminent Test.

FROM IVO TENNANT IN JOHANNESBURG

The muggings, which have evidently alarmed Mandela as much as the cricket authorities, affected the Pakistanis to the extent that there was a possibility they would abort the entire tour, let alone this Test. That was until Majid Khan, the chief executive of the Pakistan board, told his counterpart, Dr Ali Bacher, that it must continue.

"The match will be played because that is in the best interests of the world game," Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said. "Millions of rand would have been lost had it not gone ahead.

"Had we started next Thursday, our side would have had to play five Tests over six consecutive weekends, as Sri Lanka are coming next."

Security will be tightened at the Pakistan team's hotel. "The reality of South Africa is that there is a crime problem," Bacher admitted. The feeling if fairly general that this is now the biggest problem facing the country and that Mandela, for all his concern yesterday, is not doing enough to address it.

In the absence of Cronje and Rashid Latif, the sides will be captained, for the first time in Test cricket, by Gary Kirsten and Amir Sohail.

Waqar Younis will play for Pakistan in spite of a back injury. If Shoaib Akhtar, who has knee ligament trouble, is not fit, he will be replaced by a batsman.

Several members of the Pakistan side have been approached by Asians living in Johannesburg attempting to dissuade them from playing today. There was no apparent motive for this and it has had no effect on the individuals concerned.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten (captain), A M Bacher, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, A C Hudson, H H Gibbs, S M Pollock, M V Boucher, L Klusener, P L Symcox, A A Donald

PAKISTAN (from): Aamir Sohail (captain), Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan, Mohammad Wasim, Saqlain Mushtaq, Azhar Mahmood, Ali Naqvi, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed

TENNIS

Bjorkman soon puts paid to Moya's outside chance

NO ONE can claim that the Dubai Open is a dull affair. First there were the locusts that took over the stadium on Thursday, then there was the *shamaal*, which blew sand across the centre court, and yesterday there was rain. And when it rains here, it rains seriously. Play was delayed while tournament organisers worked furiously to repair the damage done to the court.

Water seeping under the latex top layer caused the surface to lift and, using two hairdryers and a lot of imagination, the repairmen took the best part of the afternoon to fix it. With the first two quarter-finals quickly rescheduled for the outside courts, it took the rest of the afternoon to placate the centre court ticket-holders, who had expensive seats but nothing to watch.

Then Jonas Bjorkman, the top seed, dispatched Carlos Moyà 7-6, 6-1. Moyà had come here hoping to get his comeback campaign rolling. Now ranked No 21, he feels that there are signs that he is regaining the form that took him to No 5 in the world last year. However, last night, faced with Bjorkman and a strong, swirling wind, it was all too much.

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

Moyà got off to a good start, breaking Bjorkman to take a 2-0 lead, but by the time that he lost the first-set tie-break, it was all over. He was broken in the opening game of the second set, broke back, only to be broken again. "Bjorkman won the mind-game out there, his mind was stronger than mine," he said.

Nicolas Kiefer also lost the battle with the conditions as he was beaten 6-3, 6-2 by Wayne Ferreira, another man trying to recapture his form. After surgery on his ankle last year, Ferreira has dropped from his regular position in the top ten to No 51, but now, with no points to defend until the French Open, his path back up the rankings is looking clear. Today, in the semi-finals, he plays Felix Mantilla, who defeated Alberto Berasategui 6-4, 6-4.

RABIH MOGHRABI



Ferreira on his way to victory over Kiefer yesterday

GOLF

Johnstone sees a way clear to go into lead

BY MEL WEBB

TONY JOHNSTONE, the Mr Magoo of the PGA European Tour, almost packed his golf clubs, his case and his myopia on to an aeroplane last week, so disgusted was he with his lack of form. Yesterday, he rejoiced in his decision to stay as he trained his sights on the top of the leaderboard in the South African PGA Championship in Johannesburg and hit the target.

Johnstone, a Zimbabwean who lives in England, has always had trouble reading lines on the greens. A recent visit to an eye specialist has changed the way he looks at things and, all of a sudden, he can see exactly where he has been going wrong. "He has shown me a few things that have helped," Johnston said. "I've always had to rely 100 per cent on the caddie to read the slope for me."

The weather has been doing its best to bring the tournament to its knees and thus far has been pretty successful. Rain prevented the first round from being completed on Thursday and it had still not been possible to catch up by close of play yesterday; half the field will finish their second round this morning.

The one thing professional golfers hate almost more than anything else is to be forced to complete a round on a different day to which they started it. Johnston, however, was not complaining as he took a useful lead on 132 under par. He played 33 holes in the day and has a three-stroke advantage over Scott Dunlap, of the United States, with Ernie Els, the pre-tournament favourite, three more behind.

"I played so badly in Durban last week I almost packed up and went back to the UK," Johnstone said. "My driving was horrible and that has always been the strength of my game."

Johnstone scrambled a par on the first hole of his second round and then coolly dismembered the course with ten birdies and only two bogeys.

SAILING

Edwards makes light work of women's record attempt

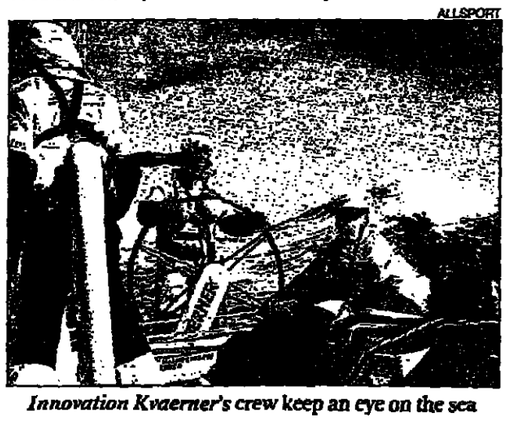
DESPITE battling against light airs for more than a week, Tracy Edwards and her all-female crew aboard the 92ft-catamaran, *Royal & SunAlliance*, were on course to cross the Equator within 11 days of setting sail on their attempt to break the non-stop round-the-world record.

Edwards was just 140 miles from the Equator and travelling at about ten knots yesterday. If she and her multinational crew cross into the Southern Hemisphere before 10.54GMT this morning, they will have reached their first objective quicker than Olivier de Kersauson, of France, when he set the record on *Sport-Elec* last year.

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

It has been a frustrating start for Edwards but she knew when she left Hamble that conditions on the first part of the voyage were not going to be ideal. Nevertheless, *Royal & SunAlliance* has averaged 12.25 knots since the start and covered 2,941 miles. The boat is on the northern edge of the Doldrum belt and was yesterday continuing to head west in search of fresher conditions.

ALLSPORT



Innovation Kvaerner's crew keep an eye on the sea

Ed Danby, the team project manager, said he believed that the performance was partly a reflection of the improvements to the big multihull which were carried out in the build-up to this record attempt.

In the Whitbread Round the World Race, the leading yachts are in a procession as they continue running towards Cape Horn. The extreme weather of the past few days has gone and wind speeds are down in the teens.

Paul Cayard, in *EF Language*, has consolidated his leg lead. Cayard was almost 50 miles ahead of Gunnar Krantz, in *Swedish Match*, yesterday and had around 800 miles left to sail before he reaches Cape Horn.

Paul Standbridge, of Britain, in *Toshiba*, was third, a further 45 miles behind, with Grant Dalton, in *Merit Cup*, fourth and Knut Frostad close behind him in *Innovation Kvaerner* in fifth place.

هكذا من الاصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Frank Leboeuf tells of his reaction to the sudden upheaval at Stamford Bridge

Luca will build on Ruud success



Leboeuf at the launch of The Ruud Boy — a limited edition Harley Davidson that is now even more of a collectors' item after Gullit's surprise sacking as Chelsea manager

I have never wavered in my belief that football management is not for me and now you know why. On Thursday morning, Ruud Gullit was manager of a Chelsea team that is second in the FA Carling Premiership, in the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup and the quarter-final of the Cup Winners' Cup. By the afternoon, he was out of a job. That is the way of modern football.

Writing this column is not easy because my brain is still a tangle of emotions and I am still trying to make sense of the past 48 hours. Believe me, I am still in a state of shock and there were plenty of blank expressions on the players' faces when we turned up at the training ground near Heathrow yesterday morning.

How do you explain your feelings when it involves two people you know so well? Ruud and Gianluca Vialli are both dear to me. Both were there to celebrate my thirtieth birthday with me a few weeks ago. They were there not as colleagues, but as friends.

So while there is obviously sadness at Ruud's sudden departure, I am, of course, pleased for Luca. He will have my full support in everything he does at Chelsea as we strive to build on the excellent work done by Ruud and bring trophies to the club. Amid all the upheavals, that one goal has remained unchanged.

Obviously, our relationship with Luca will change now. He was very straightforward about that when he called us together for a chat before training yesterday. He is one of the nicest guys you could ever hope to meet, but he knows his new job requires him to distance himself from the players and he made that plain when we had a talk.

That is the situation with any manager and it is why I have been so surprised to hear talk of problems between Ruud and senior players as being part of the reason for his departure. Yes, Ruud could be a hard man, but that is the style that he believed worked best and he only ever did it in the interests of Chelsea.

When he was at AC Milan, the dressing-room was packed with star names — too many for the team sometimes, so some were disappointed — but they got on with their job and won European Cups because they were mentally tough.

That was how Ruud believed it could work at Chelsea. I had a very special relationship with him, but I cannot remember him ever telling me that I had a great game. He felt that we were all adults and that things did not need explaining all the time. You got on with life and it made you hungrier for success.

At Chelsea, there was not always room in the team for Luca, but he kept his mouth shut, made sure that he trained hard and played well when he had the chance. That is why he is a popular man in the dressing-room.

It is not always possible for the manager to be loved by everyone and Luca has been in football long enough to know that situation. He has to pick his first team on Wednesday night to face Arsenal and there are bound to be some unhappy players. That is when he will have to learn to deal with that problem in his own particular style.

It will not be easy, because it is his first coaching job in football and he is still very keen to maintain his playing career. At training yesterday morning, he joined in with the rest of us and left it to Graham Rix [first-team coach] to run the session. He clearly has no intention of hanging up his boots just yet and the role of player-manager will not be an easy one. There is enough pressure on managers these days without having to worry about your own form.

It is a great benefit to him, though, that he knows the players and the way that the club works and I believe we can still go on to win something this season. No one could argue that Ruud did not do a great job and he has left us in a position for Luca to lead us on to more success.

I am sure that Ruud will find it too, whatever he does. He will certainly not be short of offers, although I feel it will take him a while to readjust after the incredible speed of events on Thursday.

Things moved so fast that it is a problem trying to recall how it all happened. I remember training on Thursday seemed like any other day, with Ruud in relaxed form, having a laugh as usual and talking about how well Chile had played against England. He certainly had no inkling of what was going to happen, and nor did I.

The first I knew about it was when a colleague from *The Times* rang to say that the rumour from Italy was that Ruud was to be sacked. I told him not to be crazy. I simply did not believe it. Within a couple of hours, the news had been confirmed and I spent the rest of the day in a daze.

Now, though, we have to be professional. The players got on with their training yesterday, the little two-touch games, the shuttle runs, and the sit-ups. Whatever has happened, and for whatever reason, the players have to keep their eye on the ball.

There is a season to be finished, there are trophies to be won. Of course, I shall think of Ruud, but he knows football well enough to realise that we must also look ahead. The fans expect and deserve nothing less.

Laudrup's unwitting part in manager's downfall

By Matt Dickinson

WHEN Brian Laudrup's wife complained that she was feeling unwell on Monday morning, she was oblivious to her role in the extraordinary Chelsea sacking saga. As oblivious, in fact, as Ruud Gullit was to the truth that, while he believed he was still manager of Chelsea, his successor, — and one of his players — was meeting a transfer target behind his back.

Whatever one's view on whether Gullit deserved to be dismissed or not, there is little doubt that the events surrounding Laudrup have left Chelsea looking less than wholesome, a point Gullit attempted to make maximum capital out of yesterday. The upheaval has also thrown Chelsea's chances of capturing the Rangers forward into doubt and given Gianluca Vialli, the club's new player-manager, a first test. Will Vialli be able to match Gullit's pulling power?

Laudrup, 28, refused to muddy the waters further yesterday, claiming that it will be some weeks before he decides where his future lies when his contract at Ibrox expires this summer.

"I have an official offer from Chelsea and it came from Colin Hutchinson," he said. "It is a serious offer and I am treating it seriously. It does not affect me whether Ruud Gullit is at the club or not. But there was a story this week that I have already decided on Chelsea, and I have no idea where they came from because I have never indicated my preference. Four clubs are interested and I am still thinking."

Apart from Chelsea, Rangers have made Laudrup a lucrative offer to stay. He has also been courted by Ajax and has opened negotiations with Monaco in the past few days.

Vialli has already had one



Laudrup: Gullit's absence would not affect transfer

meeting with Laudrup this week, and it was one of Gullit's principal bones of contention at his press conference yesterday. "It meant everything had already been planned behind me," he said.

So what did go on? Amid all the accusations and allegations of lying, no one appears to dispute the events of Monday to Wednesday. They are that Laudrup, the Rangers forward, was due to travel to London on Monday and meet Gullit to discuss his possible transfer to Chelsea.

Instead, early on Monday morning, Hutchinson received a call saying that Laudrup's wife had been taken ill and that he could not come down. Gullit, who was playing golf on Monday afternoon with Gianfranco Zola, Kevin Hitchcock and Gwyn Williams, his assistant manager, was also informed that the meeting was off.

It is then that matters get complicated. Hutchinson claims that Laudrup and his wife, now recovered, travelled down late on Tuesday purely to look at properties and schools, not to discuss a deal.

"I did have lunch with them," he admitted "and Zola was there because we wanted them to get a flavour of how other players have settled in. Vialli was not at the lunch. Luca met them later but as a player. They did not come down to discuss terms. It would have been wrong for him to sit down with Ruud with everything that was going on, even though these were not negotiations."

Gullit saw things differently. "I had a phone call to say Mr Laudrup could not come because his wife was ill," he said. "I spoke to his wife the next day and she said she felt a little bit ill. In that case, why could he not just come by himself? I felt something was going wrong then."

THE TIMES

20p

Fast Bucks.

A classic 328 Ferr... Fantasy Formula One.

...Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Wanderer brought down by self-indulgent streak

To those who have followed Ruud Gullit's coruscating career, the real surprise is less that he is leaving Chelsea than that he is not leaving of his own free will. Gullit has always been a kind of troubadour of football, flitting from club to club, walking out when he wishes, his football odyssey in some sense reflecting what might loosely be called his romantic life, in which he has also flitted from flower to flower begetting five children in the process.

Cherchez la femme, you might say, looking at his various peregrinations. He left Milan, where he and his fellow Dutchmen, Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten, had been so successful, for Sampdoria of Genoa. When his young wife of that period pronounced herself bored in the old port town, Gullit returned to Milan.

There, having been bitterly at odds with Fabio Capello, the manager, to the point of once almost coming to blows on the team coach when he was dropped, he went back to Sampdoria again.

In this, his last Italian incarnation, he was far from popular with the local journalists. "He's an opportunist," one cried, after he had left for London. Now, some London journalists who had fawned on him ever since he came to play for Chelsea, have shown hostility, vilifying him as arrogant and calculating.

Gullit is too complex a character to be dismissed so easily. As a footballer, although he had his occasional critics even in Italy, there is no doubt that he had few peers, a supreme compound of power, skill and flair.

These were qualities that, even in the twilight of his playing days, he brought to Chelsea. When they appointed him manager, it was as big a leap in the dark as they have now made with the appointment of Gianluca Vialli. Just as Chelsea's accomplished coach, Graham Rix, was there to dot the i's and cross the t's for Gullit, so, presumably, he will be there to support and supplement Vialli. But it is facile to dismiss Gullit as merely the front man.

Dualism in management is almost as old as professional football itself, but in the last analysis, it is always the manager who stands in the firing line. Many a fine coach has moved into management and failed.

Gullit perhaps is not so much arrogant as supremely self-indulgent. He has always done largely as he likes. Perhaps Holland would have won the 1994 World Cup in the United States had he not flounced out of training camp and refused to take part. Wim Jonk, the Holland captain, spoke bitterly about it, afterwards. Gullit, he said, had promised to explain his behaviour to the other players, but he had never done so.

Gullit, later asked by a French journalist whether he thought Holland might have won the World Cup if he had played, replied with characteristic flippancy that if his aunt had male genitals, she would be his uncle.

It was not the first time he had turned his back on Holland. He resented being forced to play wide on the right against England in a World Cup qualifying match at Wembley, resented still more the fact that he was substituted, and stayed away from the national team for some time.

He had his troubles, too, with a previous manager of Holland, Thijs Libregts, who allegedly made a racist comment to him when managing Feyenoord in 1984. Gullit, who is partly of Surinamese origin, never forgot or forgave.

Of his charm, there can be no question. Initially, as a Chelsea player, he had the endearing habit of popping into the press room after games to chat amiably with the journalists. There was no evident ulterior motive. Why should there be? As an international star, he scarcely had need of publicity or promotion. He would speak humorously, fluently — he is an accomplished linguist — on any aspect of the game.

Nor should it be forgotten that he had no fewer than four serious operations on his knee inside two years and showed enormous courage and resolve in resuming his career each time.

In a sense, Gullit may be the victim of his own hubris, and consequent unawareness. He has rung the changes far too often. He has pedalled himself in the team when he has become a liability rather than an asset. He has clung to the consolation that Chelsea stay second in the league, though they are there chiefly by default. He has shrugged off the fact that he seems to have lost the loyalty of his players. None of this might have mattered had Chelsea continued to win. Failure in football, whatever a person's glamorous past and opulent present, is the one thing that is unforgivable. And Gullit's Chelsea had been failing of late.

BRIAN GLANVILLE



هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Striker who turned his back on England and the World Cup remains unrepentant



Sutton is anxious to underline that his beliefs prompted his decision to refuse to play for England B. Now he knows there is no way back into international football. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

Sutton defends decision to play in withdrawn role

OLIVER HOLT



Sometimes, what you see is what you get. Sometimes, you can pick a man's character as easily as an apple from a tree. The ones who wear their heart on their sleeves are the best. You know where you stand straight away, take it or leave it. You know that, for better or for worse, there is nothing hidden beneath the surface, nothing more to explore. Chris Sutton is not like that.

Look at him standing there beneath the sheltering sky, framed by the starkly dramatic outlines of trees in winter. You might think he was studiously serious, even truculent, defiant perhaps. Sutton laughed when he inspected the picture. "He never asked me to smile," he said, "so I just stood there. If he'd wanted me to, I would have smiled."

The difference between appearance and reality, the many shades between superficiality and depth, have dominated his life in these days since he telephoned Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and told him that he had no intention of playing any part in the England B match against Chile B at the Hawthorns last Tuesday. He knew the outrage of the moral majority would be unleashed upon him. It was.

And so the Chris Sutton who exudes a quiet bonhomie for his fellow professionals, who speaks with wry humour of a reconciliation with his old foe, Martin Keown, of his respect for the footballing skills of men such as Nicky Butt and David Beckham and of his admiration for the encyclopaedic knowledge of Roy Hodgson, his manager at Blackburn Rovers, was lost in a blaze of abuse about Mr Moody.

Some of the letters that he received ploughed a predictable furrow. Bobby Charlton would never have acted in that way, they said. Some said he should be willing to give his right leg to play for his country, others that he should have played his best and seen what happened. On television, Geoff Hurst said he had not been a first choice in the run up to the 1966 World Cup and look what happened to him. Alan Shearer said Sutton's loss was greater than England's.

In short, Sutton's refusal to represent his country in a match that he felt he should not have been asked to play in was portrayed as the ultimate betrayal of the Corinthian spirit. Those already suspicious of his sometimes brooding manner, resentful of his inability to suffer fools gladly, accused him of throwing his toys out of the pram.

In some quarters, his thinking was likened to that of "an idiot", his rationale to that of a child. Some were almost gleeful that he had given up any chance he might have had of playing in the World Cup in France this summer. When Hoddle was asked after England's defeat by Chile on Wednesday night, whether there was any part for Sutton in his future plans, he grew angry. "Chris knows," he snapped.

But as Sutton sat at a table at the bistro in Clitheroe, where he ate on Tuesday night as the B team were slipping to their own ignominious defeat, his words peeled away the layers of misunderstanding surrounding his decision. The irony of it all for those who have condemned him is that there is an honour in his actions rare in the modern game and conspicuously absent from the deeds of some of those who will step on that England plane to France in June.

That irony is that it was a sense of honesty almost quaint in its intensity, a desire to hold true to his beliefs in fair play and his pride that compelled him to withdraw from the B squad. He took no pleasure in either defeat last week. What pleasure is there for him in knowing that he will not be going to the World Cup?

"People have suggested I made the decision because I do not care about playing for my country," Sutton said, "but in many ways, I made the decision because I care too much. I am desperate to play for my country. I do not think it is arrogant or big-headed making that decision. It is a passionate decision because I am desperate to play for my country, but I could see the way things had gone and I did not see anything else I could do.

"I took a lot of things into account. I heard things said about other players not needing to play because they did not need to prove themselves and then there I was in the B squad and I was being leapfrogged by other people when I didn't deserve that. I feel I should be honest over the situation. I think people should be honest. I could have pulled out of that game with an injury. A lot of players have done over the years and do pull out with fake injuries. It's true, everyone knows it's true. Why don't people point that out? Everybody knows who those players are, but they will stay in the frame for England.

"I value my beliefs. Playing for your country is a big thing. It is noble to be patriotic, but I put my beliefs alongside that if not stronger. I believe in what I believe in. I think that is the right thing. In this case, it is a belief in being treated fairly. People say I'm being childish and that I have taken my ball home, but that isn't the case whatsoever. I hope it is clear that there is no pleasure for me in the decision I have taken because I have cut off playing for my country."

There is also honour in the way Sutton has handled what has become a cause célèbre. Despite Shearer's provocation, he has refused to be drawn into a slanging match with his former Blackburn team-mate. Nor will he divulge the details of the conversation that he had with Hoddle when he rang him to inform him of his decision.

The only way in which he feels the need to put the record straight, in fact, is over Hoddle's assertion that he tried hard to get Sutton to reconsider. That, and the angry, bitter terms on which the two men parted, have convinced him that there is no way back on to the international scene while Hoddle is in charge.

"I never really felt Hoddle rated me," Sutton said. "There was nothing in the phone call we had to hearten me in any way. I don't think there was that much persuasion from him. I know it has been said that he tried to persuade me, but I didn't feel that. Things were said and that was that. Reasons were given why I should play in B games, but there is a difference between that and persuasion.

"I did not come off the phone thinking: 'Oh God, what have I done.' After that phone call with Hoddle, I felt vindicated. I felt even more happy about what I'd done. I don't want to go into details, but it wasn't the friendliest chat I've ever had on the telephone and you don't need to be a genius to work out where it leaves me. What it boils down to in the end is that he didn't really fancy me and I wish he had just come out and said that. You have to accept that there are times at international level where there are established players, but in the present squad there are a lot of players coming back from injury or not doing as well as me and yet all of a sudden I seem to have been leapfrogged by everybody.

"I feel things have been a big disappointment for me on the international front. Ten minutes on my international debut against Cameroon in the last match was nice, but I felt I played well enough to warrant a place in the full squad for Chile.

"In many ways, I thought things would roll along if I kept doing well and yet it seems that ten minutes has been detrimental to me. It is hard to say how I would have reacted if I hadn't been in the last squad and then been picked for this B team. It is just the way things have happened.

"If Hoddle had rated me, he would have played me against Chile. He's not going to play me closer to the World Cup. I have never played a full international and if he's going to play me at all, he would have had to play me on Wednesday. People might say I'm a braggart to think like that, but the games were running out. If I had a chance of playing in the World Cup, I would have to play a few games for people to know if I was good enough and I did not ever see that happening.

"Of course it has all been a great disappointment to me. I was stupid enough to believe I had an outside chance of going to the World Cup, but I have done what I have done and I feel better now."

'People have said I don't care enough about playing for England, but in many ways I care too much'

Webb feats fail to win hearts at Brentford

Off the line

by Russell Kempson

ST VALENTINE'S DAY... a time for romance, whispered sweet nothings and candlelit dinners — although perhaps not today at Griffin Park, Brentford, where home fans will be demonstrating against the continued employment of David Webb, the club's embattled chief executive.

Some supporters have been so angered by the regular selling of Brentford's best players that they have hired an "admobile" to carry their message on to the streets of London. It will display the slogan "Valentine's Day Massacre" and also a caricature of Webb dressed as a gangster with £10 notes hanging from his pockets.

Little love lost, either, at Park Avenue, Aberystwyth, where rival fans will be segregated this afternoon, for the first time in the history of the League of Wales (LoW), when Bangor visit for a fourth-round tie in the Welsh Cup.

Supporters and players apparently traded insults and worse after Aberystwyth's 3-1 league win against Bangor in December and LoW officials want no repeat. "We've never had to segregate fans before," John Deakin, the LoW secretary, said, "but feel this is the most prudent course of action."

☐ Is football more important than life or death? Apparently so if you produce an hourly satellite news bulletin. Ruud Gullit's sudden departure from Chelsea on Thursday was the lead item, throughout afternoon and evening, in front of the teetering peace talks in Northern Ireland and the worsening relations between Iraq and the western world.

☐ Politicians are often afflicted with foot-in-mouth disease, but Christine Oddy, MEP for Coventry and North Warwickshire, scored a spectacular own goal when waxing lyrical about the decision of Uefa, European football's governing body, to reinstate the Uefa Cup place for winners of the Coca-Cola Cup. Her gushing press release was entitled: "Good news for Coventry City. Nationwide division one team."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: A betting syndicate won £11,000 when England completed their losing treble against France (rugby union), West Indies (cricket) and Chile (football) this week. The gleeful punters, not surprisingly, live in Wales.

League to decide on shake-up

By Russell Kempson

FOOTBALL League clubs will decide in April on radical restructuring plans that could include reducing the Nationwide League first division to a "super league" of 12 sides and changing the number of teams relegated and promoted from each section. Also under consideration is increased promotion from the Vauxhall Conference.

Representatives of most of the League clubs met in London on Thursday to further discuss the proposals, which were put forward last December, but no final decisions were made. The 72 clubs will reconvene at an extraordinary general meeting of the League in two months' time.

The Football Association is to take no action against Portsmouth after an attack by a supporter on Edward Martin, an assistant referee, during the Nationwide League first division game against Sheffield United at Fratton Park two weeks ago. Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday: "We have made inquiries into the events and are satisfied, not only that all reasonable precautions were taken on the day, but also with the general safety policy at the ground."

STOP!

Are you about to break the law by copying from this newspaper?

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, generally **it is unlawful to reproduce articles from newspapers without permission** even if only for internal management purposes. To make copies legally, your organisation must get a licence from the Newspaper Licensing Agency - set up to help you comply with the law quickly and easily.

You can obtain details of the licensing scheme and an application form by sending for a booklet. For your copy, simply contact the Newspaper Licensing Agency at Lonsdale Gate, Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1NL or telephone 01892 525273, fax 01892 525275, email copy@nla.co.uk.

NLA

SCORE WITH A *FREE £10 BET.

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Delta, Switch or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

*Free bet is a £10 Correct Score bet on any one of the weekend's F.A.Cup or Scottish Cup matches. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

RING TODAY - BET TODAY

0800 44 40 40

(Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only.)

WEEKEND CUP ACTION

1-2	Arsenal	●	9-4	Crystal Palace	6-1
Evs.	Aston Villa		9-4	Coventry	9-4
4-7	Leeds		11-5	Birmingham	5-1
2-7	Man. Utd.	■	7-2	Barnsley	8-1
4-11	Newcastle		11-4	Tranmere	8-1
11-8	West Ham		2-1	Blackburn	7-4
8-11	Wimbledon		9-4	Wolves	10-3
4-1	Ayr		12-5	Kilmarnock	8-13
1-5	Dundee Utd.		4-1	Inverness CT	11-1
5-1	Dunfermline	▲	11-5	Celtic	4-7
1-7	Hearts		9-2	Albion	16-1
9-2	Motherwell		11-5	Rangers	8-13
Evs.	Raith		9-4	Falkirk	9-4
4-1	Ross Co.		11-5	Dundee	4-6
1-4	St. Johnstone		7-2	Stirling	10-1

Singles and upwards accepted.
● = Playing Sunday, Live on ITV. ■ = Playing Sunday, Live on Sky.
▲ = Playing Monday, Live on Sky.

William HILL

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION

هكذا من الاصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
BARNSLEY
Tomorrow, 4.30 (sold out)



Oliver Holt
If ever there is a time to earmark Manchester United as prospective victims of an FA Cup giant-killing, tomorrow is the day. They have had an indifferent spell, with defeats by Coventry City, *Southampton and Leicester City and a streaky draw against Bolton Wanderers* last week.

Now it is Barnsley's turn to try to wreak some revenge at Old Trafford. The hope for the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club lies not just in United's *current uncharacteristic uncertainties, but also in the run of injuries and suspensions stretching* even Alex Ferguson's squad to its limits. Tomorrow, United may be at the most vulnerable point of their season.

Suddenly, the absence of Roy Keane, glossed over for so long *by the wonderful form of Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt, will bite.* The two able deputies are absent, both suspended, and United will be significantly weakened in the centre of midfield.

Ronnie Johnsen, a natural *choice to be pushed from defence* as cover, is struggling with injury and David Beckham, another would-be central midfield player, withdrew from the England squad this week because of a hamstring problem that may limit his effectiveness tomorrow.

Ferguson may draft Phil Neville, *strangely ineffective for England against Chile, into the problem area, possibly alongside Brian McClair — alternatively, one of them may be sacrificed to allow Teddy Sheringham to slot in behind a forward pairing of Andy Cole (also fighting against injury) and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who is hardly in sparkling form.*

Given United's 7-0 win over their Yorkshire visitors at the end of last October, the champions will still be strong favourites to progress to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and continue their *quest for an unprecedented treble. However, whileBarnsley* will be without Darren Barnard, their in-form wing back, and Jan Aage Fjortoft, who is cup-tied, they have been showing signs of making a fist of their fight for Premiership survival and they do have a 1-0 win at Liverpool to *their credit.*

United will never be more ripe for the plucking than tomorrow and Barnsley might just take them back to Oakwell for a replay.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, P Neville, B McClair, R Giggs — E Sheringham, O G Solskjaer
BARNSLEY (4-4-2): D Watson — N Eaden, A de Zeeuw, P Shirtliff, N Thompson — M Bullock, N Redfearn, E Thrvier, M Appleby — J Hendrie, A Ward
Referee: M Riley.

■ TELEVISION: *Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 3, from 4pm.*
■ PREDICTION: *Barnsley get a draw.*



JOHN GILES

Black mood: Two distraught Newcastle fans digest the shocking truth — Keegan has gone and they still haven't won a trophy

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

DEPARTING SHOTS

Ruud Gullit's swift and sudden leap off the Bridge is not the first shocking managerial departure. Here are 11 others

1. Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool)
Merseyside was stunned into silence (for once) when the Kop king abdicated two days after one of the greatest of all derby matches

2. John Toshack (Wales)
Quit after 47 days and one match in charge, claiming the Welsh FA had not told him everything about the job (ie, the players were terrible)

3. David Pleat (Spurs)
Forced to resign in October 1987 after allegations about his private life

4. Tommy Docherty (Manchester Utd)
Just weeks after modelling the lid of the FA Cup as headgear, The Doc left Old Trafford after more tabloid titillation

5. Ron Saunders (Aston Villa)
Villa were the reigning champions and in the quarter-finals of the European Cup when he waved a cheery farewell

6. Bill Shankly (Liverpool)
Shanks decided to retire just weeks after winning the FA Cup. Legend has it that he regretted it almost immediately

7. Brian Clough (Leeds United)
"Everything you have won has been by cheating," Cloughie told the Leeds players. Wonder why they didn't respond to him after that?

8. Jock Stein (Leeds United)
Like Cloughie, Jock lasted just 44 days at Elland Road

9. Peter Reid (Manchester City)
Peter Swales swung the axe 12 days into the 1993-94 season

10. Joe Fagan (Liverpool)
Announced his retirement on the day of the 1985 European Cup final

11. Kevin Keegan (Newcastle United)
The Geordies would have cried even more if they had known who is replacement was going to be

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



Oliver Holt
Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, *suggested yesterday that he may be spared* from once more having to confront the troublesome issue of the future of Savo Milosevic because of the unexpectedly swift recovery *of Dwight Yorke from a calf injury that had threatened to keep* him out of this Midlands derby.

Milosevic, who has been linked with Villa's Uefa Cup opponents, Atlético Madrid, refused to be on the bench in the morale-boosting *win over Derby County last week. He is disillusioned with the lack* of support he has had from the club over allegations that he spat at Villa supporters during the drubbing at Ewood Park. A strike, he says, is the only way to secure a move.

If Yorke does not play today, *Little will either have to bite the bullet and return to Milosevic or* turn to Julian Joachim instead. Either way, Villa may be in for a torrid time against an in-form Coventry team boosted by the call-ups of Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby to the England and *England B squads* respectively.

Dublin may be moved to defence, allowing Coventry's new signing, Viorel Moldovan, a first chance in attack. "He's been getting a bit twitchy," Strachan said last week.

ASTON VILLA (probable; 4-4-2): M Bosnich — G Charles, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, A Wright — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, S Staunton — S Collymore, D Yorke.
COVENTRY CITY (probable, 4-4-2): M Hedman — P Telfer, D Dublin, R Shaw, D Burrows — J Salako, G McAllister, W Boland, M Hall — D Huckerby, V Moldovan
Referee: G Willard

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.45pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Honours even.

ASTON VILLA
v
COVENTRY CITY
Today, 3.0



ARSENAL
v
CRYSTAL PALACE
Tomorrow, 2.0

Brian Glanville
Steve Coppell's solitary consolation is that his Crystal Palace team can scarcely defend as wretchedly as they did in the league game against Wimbledon last Monday. It was, he admitted, rank *bad defending that condemned* them to defeat. "Three crosses, three goals."

If Wimbledon had Michael Hughes to torment Palace on the right, Arsenal have Marc Overmars on the left and the *ever-active Ray Parlour on the right. Not to mention Dennis* Bergkamp up front.

With Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano complaining so bitterly about Palace's primitive training ground and allegedly inadequate medical facilities, it *seems unlikely that strength and succour will* be coming from that quarter. Neil Shipperley and Paul Warhurst are injured.

Arsenal's elderly defence has made light of its years of late and Palace scarcely have the firepower to disconcert them, even though we know *that Palace's away form is so much superior to their displays at Selhurst.*

True, Palace do tend to play a great deal better, on the break, away from home, and the Arsenal defence will be without Tony Adams, who is suspended. In his place, Arsenal are likely to use Gilles *Grimandi, one of their Frenchmen.*

Meanwhile, you wonder whether Palace will stick to the three-man defence that tends to leave such enormous gaps. Keeping four at the back would surely be a *much safer policy. It was suicidal enough* to give Wimbledon so much time and space. It will be still more so to be as wildly generous to Arsenal.

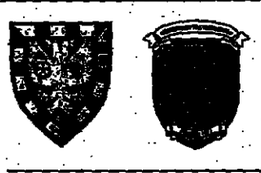
Palace will have to keep a *careful eye on young Stephen* Hughes, who scored both girls in the 2-0 defeat of Chelsea, as he breaks into the box.

ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): A Manninger — L Dixon, G Grimandi, S Bould, N Winterburn — R Parlour, S Hughes, E Petit, M Overmars — N Anelka, D Bergkamp.
CRYSTAL PALACE (probable, 3-5-2): K Miller — V Ismael, A Linighan, H Hreidarsson — J Smith, A Roberts, T Brolin, M Edworthy, O Gordon — B Dyer, M Bent.
Referee: M Bodenham

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Live on ITV, from 1.30pm.*
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal victory.



Brian Glanville
Though deprived of several first-choice players, *Wimbledon will probably have* the edge over a Wolverhampton Wanderers team that will certainly give them more of a run for their money than Crystal Palace *did in the EA Carling Premiership last Monday. The suspension* of Michael Hughes, the Northern Ireland international, is however, a blow to Wimbledon. He was the key player in attack against Palace and Wimbledon have no obvious replacement. Carl Leaburn, who scored twice *in that game, is cup-tied, having* already played for Charlton Athletic in the competition.



WIMBLEDON
v
WOLVERHAMPTON W
Today, 3.0

Steve Bull, long injured, may be on the Wolves' bench. Mark McGhee, their manager, will hardly deploy three up front, as *he did in the previous round at Charlton. It is likely he will make* Dougie Freedman, who Wolves bought from Palace last year, one of his frontrunners, on Freedman's old stamping ground.

With so many absentees, it looks likely that Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, will give *Carl Cort, his promising young* striker, a clear run in the game this time, to be partnered, presumably, by Jason Euell, who looked sharp and scored against Palace.

WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher — S Castledine, P Fear, N Ardley, V Jones — J Euell, C Cort.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (probable; 3-4-1-2): M Stowell — D Richards, S Sedgley, K Curle — K Muscat, C Robinson, D Ferguson, I Naylor — R Kearns —, D Goodman, M Pembridge.
Referee: U Rennie.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Wimbledon to win.



Russell Kempson
Steve Bruce's better days have long since passed, but the hunger remains, especially for the FA Cup. He will *never forget leading Manchester United to their 4-0* victory against Chelsea in the 1994 Final.

"I remember looking up at the scoreboard, with ten minutes to go, and seeing Manchester United 4, Chelsea 0 — with ten minutes to go," he said. "There we were, *at the most famous stadium in the world, and in complete* control. I wanted to get my hands on the trophy, but, at the same time, I wanted the game to go on forever."

Then again, with Furlong, Marsden and Robinson suspended, Adebola cup-tied and Kevin Francis apparently en route to Oxford United in exchange for Darren Purse, it is more likely that it is Leeds United who will prevail.

Although they have nine players only one booking away from a suspension, do not expect any let-up from George Graham's bruisers.

LEEDS UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, R Molenaar, D Wetherall, L Rasmussen — A Halaland, B Ribeiro, C Hopkin, H Kewell — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
BIRMINGHAM CITY (possible, 4-4-2): J Bennett — J Bass, S Charlton, S Bruce, G Ablett — J McCarthy, B Hughes, M O Connor, M Grainger — N Forster, P Ndlovu
Referee: D Gallagher

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights
■ PREDICTION: Bye bye, Brucie.

LEEDS UNITED
v
BIRMINGHAM CITY
Today, 3.0

Bruce, 37, cannot go on forever — he is negotiating a new one-year deal with *Trevor Francis, the manager — but may have one last* Cup hurrah at Elland Road today, with his Birmingham side hoping to strike a blow for the Nationwide League first division.



Richard Hobson
After the public-relations fiasco over Stevenage Borough, this FA Cup fifth-round tie has come around with pleasing haste for Newcastle United, without the verbal skirmishes and with the low *profile that Kenny Dalglish, the* manager, appears to crave.

However, they can not afford to repeat the nervy, disjointed performances of the fourth round against Tranmere Rovers, who, suddenly, have found some form. *After going 707 minutes without a* goal, Tranmere have scored six in the past two games and moved out of the relegation zone in the Nationwide League first division.

with an embarrassment — if that *is the right word — of central* defenders.

O'Brien and Kelly were key members of the Newcastle side that Kevin Keegan took into the FA Carling Premiership five eventful years ago. They will play against their former club, but Frail and Branch are doubtful as Tranmere seek a quarter-final place for the *first time in their history.*

NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible; 3-5-2): S Given — D Peacock, S Howey, S Pearce — K Gillespie, D Batty, A Lee, G Speed, A Ferguson — A Shearer, F Anderson.
TRANMERE ROVERS (possible; 3-5-2): S Simonsen — C Hill, D Challinor, J McGreal — K Irons, M Mellon, L O'Brien, J Morrissey, A Thompson — D Kelly, G Branch
Referee: G Ashby

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Newcastle to ease through quietly.

NEWCASTLE UNITED
v
TRANMERE ROVERS
Today, 3.0

Newcastle will miss the consistent Watson, whose broken foot forced him out of the England B *international in midweek, while* Griffin, the hugely *promising* left back, is cup-tied. Howey is in contention after recovering from a hip problem, leaving Dalglish

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



Nick Szczepanik
Everton, unbeaten in the FA Carling Premiership this year, had *Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, to* thank for their draw at Barnsley last Saturday. "You never want your goalkeeper to be man of the match," Howard Kendall, the manager, said, "but he looks as if he's going to take *some dislodging." The same could not be said of a rogue* contact lens, which caused the game to be held up while Myhre attempted to replace it.

Kendall has indicated that money earned from the transfers of Andy Hinchcliffe and Gary Speed will be *spent in midfield,* an area that could be a problem today with Mitch Ward doubtful and Nick Barmby unlikely to be risked after a groin injury caused his withdrawal from the England B squad. The suspension of John O'Kane means a defensive rejig: Slaven Bilic and Carl Tiler are in contention after illness and suspension, respectively.

Never the best of travellers, Derby County lost the Premiership's last unbeaten home record a week ago. Rory Delap, recently signed from Carlisle United, may make his debut, while Paulo Wanchope *is available again after international duty with Costa Rica.*

EVERTON (possible; 3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, C Tiler — G Allen, A Grant, C Thomsen, G Farrelly, M Ball — *M Madar*, D Ferguson.
DERBY COUNTY (probable; 3-5-2): M Poom — C Daily, I Stimac, J Laursen — R Delap, L Carsley, S Eranio, F Baiano, C Powell — P Wanchope, D Saunders.
Referee: S Dunn.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win.

EVERTON
v
DERBY COUNTY
Today, 3.0



Keith Pike
Dropped by his country, now demoted by his club? It seems inconceivable that Robbie Fowler's week can get any worse, *but it could if the Mersey*side rumour mill is right.

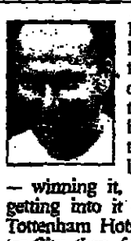
Speculation has been rife at Liverpool that Fowler may be omitted from the game at Hillsborough today, three days after being forced to watch England's World Cup *preparations continue without him. Roy Evans*, the manager, was thought to be preparing the ground when he spoke of the need to give Karlheinz Riedle, the club's German striker, the chance to prove *himself; Evans is hardly likely to* leave out Michael Owen.

On his own admission, Fowler's form has dipped — that clinical finishing has deserted him, while *others have questioned his workrate* — but all things are relative. *This is a* player who, after three successive seasons with 30-plus goals to his name, has still managed 13 in 24 starts. The likes of Stan Collymore (five goals in 29), Duncan Ferguson (eight in 22) and Les Ferdinand (three in 18) can only dream of playing so badly. Evans could do Fowler — and, in the long term, England — a favour by sticking with him.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible; 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, J Newsome, A Hinchcliffe — P Rudi, P Atherton, G Hyde, M Pembridge — P Di Canio, B Carbone.
LIVERPOOL (possible; 4-4-2): D James — R Jones, F Babb, D Matteo, S Harkness — S McManaman, P Ince, J Carragher, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, K Riedle.
Referee: M Reed.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
LIVERPOOL
Today, 3.0



Peter Robinson
It has been one of the odder features of this season that the cups seem to be less important than the FA Carling Premiership *— winning it, staying in it or* getting into it — so lucky old Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City, then, free to concentrate on the proper stuff.

Well, not exactly lucky, not Tottenham anyway. The striking *thing about their preparations for* this game is their lack of strikers. Klinsmann, Iversen, Ferdinand to name but three who are injured. Armstrong will play at some point, but Christian Gross, the manager, said yesterday that he will not last 90 minutes "and that is a big handicap". Thank heavens for substitutes.

Gross also said yesterday that he is enjoying life at White Hart Lane, despite his so far problematic reign, but then Tottenham *did win at Blackburn Rovers last* week. Leicester are in form too, after back-to-back defeats of Manchester United (at Old Trafford, no less) and Leeds United, and should be weakened only a little by the absence of Keller, on international duty for Uncle Sam in the Concacaf Gold Cup. Arphexad replaces him in goal, Walsh may or may not displace Prior in the back three.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (possible; 4-4-2): E Scardian — S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, C Wilson — R Fox, D Howells, N Berti, A Nielsen — D Ginola, C Armstrong.
LEICESTER CITY (possible; 3-5-2): K Keller — P Kitamark, M Elliott, S Walsh — R Savage, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Guppy — E Heskey, A Cottee.
Referee: S Lodge.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0

Matt Dickinson
Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, *is struggling to find 11 fit bodies*, never mind a team that can beat Blackburn Rovers. Things *must be bad if he willing to pay* Liverpool £25,000 *per game for* Neil Ruddock.

Sinclair is cup-tied, Abou suspended, Kitson and Unsworth injured, so Ferdinand probably has little choice but to pass a *fitness test on his damaged foot.* Still, *morale should be high at* Upton Park after their FA Carling Premiership victory at Newcastle United last week, which maintained hopes of a securing place in Europe.

forced him to miss out for England on Wednesday, while Kevin Gallacher is likely to return after a stomach strain.

The Scotland striker's *importance to Rovers was underlined* last week, when Chris Sutton's toil went unrewarded in the absence of a goalscoring accomplice. The return of Gallacher *may just swing this tie Blackburn's way.*

WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 3-5-2): C Forrest — S Potts, R Ferdinand, I Pearce — T Breacker, A Impey, S Lomas, F Lampard, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic, J Hartson.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, C Hendry, S Henchoz, G Croft — S Ripley, T Sherwood, M McKinlay, J Wilcox — K Gallacher, C Sutton
Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Blackburn into the next round, possibly via a replay.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

West Ham should certainly be *in better mental shape than* Blackburn, *who put in an abject* first-half display as they crashed 3-0 at home to Tottenham Hotspur last week. Tim Flowers is expected to have recovered from the badly bruised ribs that

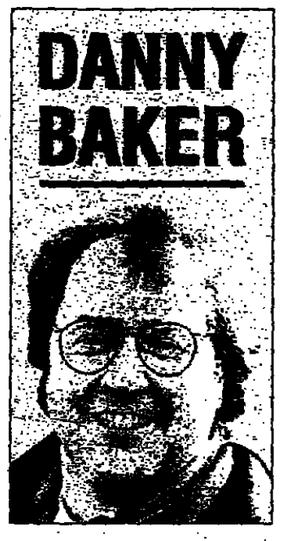
ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Why I won't lie back and think of England

DANNY BAKER



I think England will win the World Cup. I always do. I don't mean in a wistful, come on lads, against all odds, doomed love affair way either. I mean, if you tie me to a lie detector and ask me who I feel will win the World Cup I will answer "England" and the needle will not leap around like a pickle-sucking, free-pass, *Daily Mail* football reporter gleefully saying I told you so when we come unstuck in friendlies.

I also honestly don't secretly feel that Brazil and Germany, Italy or France are inherently better teams than us. Surely, whenever England don't win the World Cup, or fail to qualify for the World Cup, or even don't beat Chile on a Wednesday night, it is just part of the ordinary ebb, flow, up, down, thousand-shocks-that-the-fan-is-heir-to experience that is part and parcel of soccer worldwide. In short, there is no evidence to show that football is a science. We lost that match. On another night, we win that match.

The only lesson to come out of Wednesday is to stop bunging out teams that, in any other advertised form of public entertainment, would have had the audience asking for their money back. The customers at Wembley must have felt exactly as I did a few years back when, on taking my seat to see country-rock legends, The Byrds, perform in concert, I discovered that the sole original member up there was the 95-year-old drummer.

League clubs actually get fined for doing what Glenn Hoddle did in midweek and surely even the FA are not so arrogant as to think that they can treat an international at Wembley as a full-price training session. If Wednesday really was a rehearsal, a sound check, then stop rushing people £20-plus for the privilege of witnessing the sort of misfire that belongs behind closed doors.

That said, in too many quarters, England are being smugly celebrated as no good again. Incredibly, a couple of Chile players are also new Pelés. The people who regularly screech disparagingly about England's prospects as opposed to, well, anyone else's really, are the cowards of comment, alarmist scoundrels two notches in reputation below astrologers ready to belly-up to any collectable unknown name who pulls off a couple of one-twos and show a bit of pace.

Victories are treated with suspicion, defeats will always teach us our true place. Most of what passes as considered football comment is just a sour chorus of nagging that, while focusing on England's faults with all the precision of a surgeon, will only deal with the day-to-day shortcomings of other international sides with blowsy generalisations.

Don't you just know that if any one of the darling sides has suffered the same result as England on Wednesday, the general fall back would have been: "Oh yes, a friendly is one thing, but you'll find them a very different team in the actual World Cup . . ." Shamefully, even plodding Roy Hodgson was saying as much live on television — in response to Brazil's humbling by the United States — even before the first bum was in the bath.

Football is chaos; that is its engine, its heart, its attraction. Albeit a very English thing to do, it is small, safe, dreary and pointless to say England will not win the next World Cup. It is exciting, dangerous and thrillingly continental to boast that they will.

☐ **Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.**

FACT: Though Pickles the dog is most remembered for finding the World Cup, it is often overlooked that, in his lifetime, he also found the Charity Shield, The old League Cup and, on two separate occasions, the third division trophy.



MARC ASPLAND

Chile welcome: Owen takes the field for his much-hyped England debut at Wembley on Wednesday

Fans take no notice of age concerns

Several puzzling new reports would have it that Michael Owen's debut for England added a late rush of 10,000 extra bums on seats to Wembley on Wednesday. These breathless bulletins seem to suggest that football fans were umming and erring about the Chile fixture until the prospect of seeing a real live 18-year-old on the pitch had them reaching under their wardrobes to get at the stash of emergency cash. Good God, the man's not General Tom Thumb. This was hardly An Event.

I am as prone to Barnumism and snake oil sales as anybody and will cheerfully admit to once paying the equivalent of £20 to be photographed next to the Only Zebra in Mexico City, which was clearly a common or garden burro sweating under crudely daubed emulsion paint. But not once at any point this week did I feel that in failing to get caught up in Owen Fever I was somehow missing the big show.

Besides, if the public were quite the salivating suckers whose chief interest in international matches lay in the players' ages, under-21 fixtures would be held at Hampden and the Bernabéu, not Portman Road and The Hawthorns.

Venables' future with Australia uncertain

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TERRY VENABLES, the Australia coach, declined to discuss his immediate future yesterday, 48 hours before what is possibly his last match in charge of the national team. Venables, who is believed to have received several coaching offers from Europe and Africa, said that he had not made any decision and was waiting to see what Soccer Australia, the sport's ruling body in the country, had to offer.

Australia play Japan in in Adelaide tomorrow in what could prove to be his swansong, even though the former England coach is under contract to Australia until the middle of the year. However, their failure to qualify for the World Cup finals in France in June means they are unlikely to play again during that period.

Japan, who have qualified, are using the match as part of their build-up to the World Cup and Venables expects a tough match. "I think all the teams going to France have now finished experimenting," he said. "They've got to get some confidence going. I think we can beat them, but it's going to be very hard."

Japan reached the World Cup finals for the first time with a sudden-death "golden goal" victory against Iran, the team who went on to beat Australia on away goals to claim the 32nd and last place in the tournament. Japan's triumph sparked celebrations across the country, which will controversially co-host the 2002 World Cup finals with South Korea.

Japan are expected to name a full-strength team to face Australia, but, with the J-League dormant, most of their players have not played since the match against Iran. "Being the off-season, many of our players may not be at their peak just yet," Takeshi Okada, the Japan coach, said, "but the competition for places in the final World Cup team is enough motivation to spur the players on.

"This is the first camp we have had since the World Cup qualifiers and it will hopefully develop the players into a similar style of thinking."

Australia will again be without their European-based players, who were also missing from the victory against South Korea on Wednesday and the defeat by Chile last weekend.

"If we come out of this with some players that go on to play for Australia's A side in future, then it will have been a worthwhile exercise," Venables said.

Brawl in a day's work for the sport of kings

The news that Mike Tyson has fewer than £60,000 to his name, while Don King, his flamboyant manager, uses just that figure to light his front-room fire every day makes me feel better about being a long-time supporter of illegal boxing.

This much-decried sport is turning out to be the only noble version of competitive fisticuffs there is. Quite simply, two huge men agree to have a fight. A select hundred or so people are invited to spectate at the event. All their entrance fees go into a leather bag. Whichever boxer is still standing at the fight's end takes the bag home.

Quite why the British Boxing Board of Control complicates matters further than this must purely be a matter of jobs for the boys. On. I realise that you can't be light and felicitous about the dreadful, indefensible injuries that boxing has been responsible for over the years, but even its so-called outlaw, street version has a better track record.

Because its participants are not finely-tuned athletes, but rather off-duty mini-cab drivers full of beer and pie to whom a cranial thwack from an adjustable spanner is as mother's milk, they tend to be back at the bar being ribbed about their poor show just moments after having a human wardrobe stand upon their forehead. What's more, they will often excuse themselves early to attend another crack at glory inside another railway arch somewhere across town.

In another age, Lenny McLaine would have had a park dedicated to him. Lenny McLaine being the Joe Louis of the behind-closed-doors bouts. A truly unnerving, truly fearsome, truly powerful man, his off-duty conversation was — still is I hope — like tracts of Muhammad Ali delivered by Bob Hoskins.

When McLaine talks about "upending" the King of the Gypsies on Derby day afternoon, and then driving up to Newcastle to "have a tear up" with the King of the Geordies, he does so with a twinkle in his eye, defying you to second-guess him as to the absurdity of it all. More importantly, he actually did it. "What are you the king of?" I once asked him. "Me?" he volleyed back. "I'm the King of Buying My Mrs a New Mercedes By Fighting People Called The King Of." After a famous victory against Roy "The Bull" Shaw, Lenny was asked about claims that Shaw's defeat was due to him taking Ginseng. "Yes," said McLaine, "it could be the ginseng he took. Or it could be the right-hander he took that put him in the third row."

Then there's the story of his trip to America to fight — oh, you're ahead of me — The King of New York. He travelled by boat, but on arrival in the US was refused entry. Word of this was got to his opponent's representatives, who told Lenny that it was all a yellow-belly Brit smokescreen and their man would claim the — admittedly imaginary — Pan-Continental title.

Brooding on this in his cabin, Lenny then came up with the following solution. If he couldn't come into America, might not the King of New York grab his passport and come out of America — at least on to the quayside, where the matter could be resolved. This is, apparently, what happened and, victory earned, Lenny McLaine returned back to Britain, reputation intact and a new lounge suite and carpet on the horizon.

Of course, followers of and workers within professional boxing will claim that there is a great deal more to the legitimate game than that. That there is a substantial difference between The Noble Art and working-class men descending into the entertainment abyss to provide cars and furniture for their families. Well, yeah, of course. For a start, Mrs McLaine probably still has her Mercedes.

Giving mercenaries a Ruud shock

Regular readers of this column will be aware that I have long believed Chelsea Football Club to be not so much a team as a brittle, showboating star vehicle, football's own Harlem Globetrotters, whose blue shirt of convenience is now recognised as the Premiership's equivalent of a Planet Hollywood hat, their club badge a mobile phone. That Ruud Gullit should bugger off between the two legs of a semi-final is about as much as Ken Bates's shallow pirate ship deserves.

Perhaps now is as good a time as any to float my idea of The King Herod Cup, a nakedly rabid set-to aimed exclusively at the heart as opposed to the contract.

The KHC would see traditional British competitions suspended while all players return to their districts of birth. After a period of trials and consideration, squads are assembled. Then the games begin. Sheffield really do play Liverpool, London take on Bristol, Glasgow face Manchester, Newcastle battle Birmingham.

It would be intense, idiotic, vital and glorious. The demand for tickets would be overwhelming, the atmosphere inside grounds momentous, critical, explosive. Under such conditions, players would have to perform like supermen or else risk never seeing their mother or sister's house again.

Even those of you curling a lip in disgust at such naked xenophobia could not honestly say that such a maelstrom of fealty and passion wouldn't be worth a whirl, say, once a decade.

Then we could all go back to our present post-Bosman set-up of hired hands trudging round the pro circuit, a goal here, a personal appearance there, Chelsea, Arsenal, Leeds, Middlesbrough . . . whatever. People will soon slip back into neutral, settle for party tricks over commitment and, with eyes wide shut, be sold another season ticket to the fair.

For the treason pleases!
But the traitors are odious
Don Quixote

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership and FA Cup fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Cup
Fifth round

(1) Aston Villa v Coventry
(3) Leeds v Birmingham
(4) Newcastle v Tranmere
(2) Sheffield Utd v Reading P
(-) West Ham v Blackburn
(5) Wimbledon v Wolverhampton

FA Carling Premiership

(6) Everton v Derby
(-) Sheffield Wednesday v Liverpool
(-) Tottenham v Leicester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	15	5	5	52	19	50
Chelsea	25	14	3	8	52	27	45
Liverpool	25	13	6	6	41	22	45
Blackburn	25	12	9	4	44	27	45
Arsenal	24	12	8	4	44	25	44
Derby	25	11	6	8	39	31	39
Leeds	25	11	5	9	34	28	38
West Ham	25	12	3	11	37	35	38
Leicester	25	9	9	7	28	32	36
Newcastle	25	9	5	11	25	30	32
Southampton	25	9	4	12	29	39	31
Coventry	25	7	8	9	29	34	30
Aston Villa	25	8	6	11	27	34	30
Sheff Wed	25	8	6	11	37	48	30
Wimbledon	24	7	8	9	25	27	29
Everton	25	7	7	11	30	37	28
Tottenham	25	7	5	13	24	41	26
C Palace	25	5	8	12	21	37	23
Bolton	25	4	11	10	22	41	23
Barnsley	25	6	4	15	32	61	22

Nationwide League
First division

(7) * Crewe v Portsmouth
(-) Ipswich v Huddersfield
(8) Manchester City v Bury
(9) Middlesbrough v Bradford
(10) Port Vale v Norwich
(11) Stockport v Stoke
(12) West Bromwich v QPR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm F	30	18	6	6	48	28	60
Middlesbro	30	17	8	5	50	28	59
Sunderland	29	16	7	6	49	28	55
Sheff Utd	30	14	12	4	46	31	54
Charlton	30	15	7	8	53	38	52
Wolvrhmptn	30	14	5	10	40	30	48
West Brom	30	14	6	10	32	29	48
Stockport	30	13	5	12	48	42	44
Birmingham	30	11	11	8	37	23	44
Bradford	31	11	11	9	33	32	44
Swindon	32	12	7	13	34	46	43
Norwich	30	11	7	12	29	41	40
Ipswich	29	9	12	8	36	31	39
Crewe	30	11	4	15	37	45	37
QPR	30	9	9	12	33	45	36
Reading	30	9	9	12	31	45	36
Oxford Utd	30	9	6	15	38	44	33
Tranmere	30	8	9	13	34	39	33
Huddersfld	30	8	9	13	32	41	33
Stoke	30	8	9	13	31	45	33
Port Vale	30	6	6	18	35	47	30
Man City	30	7	9	14	33	34	30
Bury	30	4	15	11	27	40	27
Portsmth	29	6	6	17	31	47	24

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Glentoran v Glenavon; Omagh: Linfield v Ards. First division: Bangor v Carrick; Distillery v Newry; Larne v Ballyclare, Limavady Utd v *Dungannon Swifts*

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Drogheda (7.30); Sligo v Bohemians (7.30)

Second division

(13) Blackpool v Millwall
(14) Bournemouth v Chesterfield
(15) *Brentford v Preston*
(16) Bristol City v Gillingham
(17) Carlisle v Walsall
(18) Northampton v Southend
(19) Oldham v Fulham
(20) *Plymouth v York*
(-) Watford v Luton (12.0)
(21) Wigan v Grimsby
(22) Wrexham v Bristol Rovers
(23) Wycombe v Burnley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	30	19	7	4	45	22	64
Bristol City	31	18	7	6	54	25	61
Fulham	30	13	9	8	40	28	48
Northmptn	31	12	12	7	35	26	48
Bristol R	30	13	8	9	45	44	47
Oldham	30	11	12	7	43	32	45
Grimsby	29	12	9	7	38	24	45
Bournemth	30	11	10	9	37	31	43
Gillingham	30	11	9	10	38	39	42
York	30	10	11	9	37	38	41
Wrexham	29	10	11	8	35	35	41
Chesterfld	31	9	14	8	28	27	41
Blackpool	29	11	6	12	33	36	39
Millwall	28	10	7	11	31	33	37
Walsall	28	10	6	13	43	45	36
Wigan	29	10	6	13	43	45	36
Wycombe	31	8	12	11	35	41	36
Preston	30	9	7	14	36	37	34
Burnley	30	8	9	13	36	41	33
Luton	30	8	8	14	38	48	32
Plymouth	30	7	10	13	38	46	31
Brentford	31	7	10	14	32	51	31
Carlisle	30	8	6	16	39	46	30
Southend	31	7	7	17	30	57	28

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham v Alfreton; Bamber Bridge v Winsford; Bishop Auckland v Runcorn; *Blyth Spartans v Frickley; Chorley v Gainsborough; Colwyn Bay v Barrow; Emley v Leigh RMI; Hyde v Boston; Lancaster v Gateshead; Marine v Spennymoor.* First division: Ashton United v Trafford; Belper Town v Albion; Eastwood Town v Buxton; Farsley Celtic v Droylsden; Flixton v Harrogate Town; Great Harwood v Whitby; Lincoln United v Whitley Bay; Matlock Town v Bradford PA; Ave, Netherfield v Worksop; Stocksbridge PS v *Gresley, Workington v Congleton.*

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford Utd v Swindon (11.0).

Third division

(-) Barnet v Cardiff
(24) Brighton v Doncaster
(25) Darlington v Notts County
(26) Hartlepool v Chester
(27) Macclesfield v Leyton Orient
(28) Rotherham v Shrewsbury
(29) Scarborough v Exeter
(30) Scunthorpe v Rochdale
(31) Swansea v Peterborough
(32) Torquay v Hull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts Co	31	19	9	3	54	30	66
Barnet	31	15	8	8	45	33	53
Peterboro	31	14	10	7	53	31	52
Macclsfld	31	14	10	7	45	32	52
Rotherham	31	13	11	7	49	36	50
Torquay	31	14	8	9	46	39	50
Scarboro	31	14	7	10	50	45	49
Lincoln	30	13	10	7	36	35	49
Chester	31	14	6	11	42	36	48
L Orient	30	13	8	9	41	26	47
Exeter	31	11	13	7	46	35	46
Hartlpool	31	9	16	6	42	35	43
Colchester	31	11	8	12	45	50	41
Mansfield	30	10	10	10	39	33	40
Darlington	30	9	9	12	40	49	36
Swansea	31	10	5	16	33	43	35
Cardiff	30	6	16	8	26	30	34
Shrewsbury	29	8	9	12	39	44	33
Rochdale	31	10	3	18	34	41	33
Hull	31	7	5	19	40	56	26
Brighton	31	4	10	17	25	46	22
Doncaster	31	3	6	22	21	80	15

* not including last night's matches

Vauxhall Conference

(-) Cheltenham v Stevenage
(37) Dover v Halifax
(-) Gateshead v Rushden and D (5.0)
(38) Hayes v Yeovil
(39) Hereford v Morecambe
(40) Kidderminster v Southport
(41) Leek v Hednesford
(42) Northwich v Slough
(43) Telford v Welling
(44) Woking v Kettering

Bell's Scottish League
First division

(-) Greenock Morton v Hamilton

Second division

(-) Clyde v Livingston
(33) Clydebank v Stranraer
(34) *Stenhousemuir v Brechin*

Third division

(35) Berwick v Cowdenbeath
(-) *East Stirling v Dumbarton*
(36) Queen's Park v Montrose

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fourth round

(-) Ayr v Kilmarnock
(-) Dundee Utd v Inverness CT
(-) Hearts v Albion
(-) Motherwell v Rangers
(-) Raith v Falkirk
(-) Ross County v Dundee
(-) St Johnstone v Stirling

Dr Martens League
Premier division

(45) Ashford v Halesowen
(46) Burton Albion v *Crawley*
(47) Cambridge City v Bromsgrove
(-) Gresley v Gloucester
(-) King's Lynn v Hastings
(48) Merthyr v Atherstone
(49) *Nuneaton v Worcester City*
(-) Rothwell v Dorchester
(-) Sittingbourne v Bath
(-) St Leonards v Forest Green

SOUTHERN DIVISION. Baldock v Fisher London, Cinderford v Havant, Dartford v Bashley; Fleet T v Waterlooville, Margate v Weston-super-Mare, Newport AFC v Witney; Tonbridge Angels v Clevedon; Trowbridge v Cirencester Town; Weymouth v Fareham, Yate v Newport IoW. Midland division: Corby v Stourbridge, Grantham v Sutton Coldfield Town, Hinckley Utd v Stafford; Ilkeston v Evesham; Moor Green v Shepshed D; Paget R v Brackley Town, RC Warwick v Blakenall; Raunds T v Solihull Boro, VS Rugby v Wisbech Town

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Boreham Wood; Bishop's Stortford v Dulwich (at Dagenham and Redbridge), Bromley v Dagenham and Redbridge; Carshalton v Walton and Hersham; Enfield v Chesham, Gravesend and Northfleet v Sutton United, Harrow v Kingstonian; Heybridge v Hendon, Hichin v Aylesbury; Purfleet v Oxford City; St Albans v Yeading. First division: Abingdon Town v Billericay; Berkhamsted v Molesey; Bognor Regis v Aldershot Town; Chertsey v Uxbridge; Grays v Wokingham, Hampton v Whyteleafe, Leyton Pennant v Barton Rovers; Romford v Croydon; Wembley v Maidenhead, Worthing v Leatherhead. Second division: Barking v Cheshunt, Bedford T v Bracknell, Canvey Island v Banstead; Egham v Edgware; Horsham v Leighton Town, Hungerford v Marlow; Met Police v Wivenhoe Norwood v Tooting and Mitcham, Wealdstone v Braintree Windsor and Eton v Chelton; St Peter, Wokam v Tilbury. Third division: Aveley v Wingate and Finchley, Camberley Town v Ware, Corinthian-Casuals v Ford Utd; Croydon v H Hempstead, East Thurrock v Hertford, Epsom and Ewell v Dorking, Harlow v Flackwell Heath, Hornchurch v Clapton, Lewes v Tring, Southall v Kingsbury

LEAGUE OF WALES: Porthmadog v Flint Town (2.30); Welshpool v Rhyl (2.30).

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town v Shildon, Consett v Tow Law Crook v Jarrow Roofing; Durham v Murton; Gateshead v Billingham, Northallerton v Easington CW, Penrith v Bedlington Terriers, Seaham Red Star v Morpeth, South Shields v RTM Newcastle; Stockton v Dunston FB

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Herne Bay; Chatham v Erith Corinthian v VCD, Crockenhill v Cray; Deal v Tunbridge Wells; Faversham v Folkestone Invicta, Greenwich v Canterbury, Hythe v Ramsgate, Lordswood v Sheppey; Slade Green v Whitstable Town Thamesmead v Swanley Furness.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedwell v Calne, Bridgend v Bridport, Bristol Manor Farm v Elmore Chard v Odd Down, Mangotsfield Utd v Chippenham, Melksham v Keynsham Paulton R v Brislington, Torrington v Bridgwater; Westbury v Barnstaple

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Amersham v Hanwell Boro, Harefield v Barkingside, Hillingdon Boro v Boscombe, Ilfington v Harwell Rusiip Manor v Binnsdown, Waltham Abbey v Woodford. Premier division north: Biggleswade v Brache Sparta, Hadleedon v Potters Bar Town; London Colney v Arlesey Town, Milton Keynes v Langford, Royston v Letchworth, Toddington v Harpenden Westwyn Garden v Bedford

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Millwall (11.0); Crystal Palace v Tottenham (11.0); Gillingham v Fulham (11.0); Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd (11.0); Portsmouth v Ipswich (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Ipswich (11.0); Southend v West Ham (11.0); Watford v Arsenal (11.0). Second division: Barnet v Colchester (11.0), Brentford v Luton (11.0); Brighton v Southampton (11.0); Oxford Utd v Bournemouth (11.0); Swindon v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Wimbledon v Wycombe (11.0) Postponed: Bristol City v Reading

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION. Premier division: Alvechurch v Handrahan Timbers, Bourne Community; College v Met PA, Solihull Swifts v Dudley Sports, Chelsm Hay v Kenilworth, Continental Star v Highgate, Coventry Sphinx v Southam GPT (Coventry) v Knowle, Kings Heath v Worcestershire Masse, Ferguson v Wellesbourne Studley BKL v Coleshill

OLD BOYS LEAGUE. Premier division: Enfield OB v Old Suttonians, Latymer OB v Old Meadonians, Old Tenterdenians v Glyn OB; Old Vaughanians v Cardinal Manning OB

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup, Lancing v Wykehamists. Premier division: Chomeleians v Carthusians, Etonians v Salopians; Haberdashers v Foresters

WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Aberystwyth v Bangor City (2.0); Caernarfon v Carmarthen Town (2.0), Connah's Quay v Llanwern (at Rhyl FC, 2.30); Cwmbran v Hoover Sports (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Newtown (at Latham Park, Newtown, 2.0); Inter Cable-Tel v Caersws (2.30), Knighton v Barn (2.30), Ton Pentre v TNS (2.0)

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Brora, Cove v Forres Mechanics, Fraserburgh v Clachnacuddin, Keith v Elgin, Lossiemouth v Fort William, Nairn County v Huntly, Peterhead v Rothes; Wick Academy v Deveron, all

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Chipstead; Chessington and Hook v Westfield, Cove v Cobham, Cranleigh v Alton Casuals; Farnham v Viking Sports, Feltham v Godalming and Guildford, Merstham v Ashford, Nemone v Sanchurst, Raynes Park Vale v Hanley Wintney; Reading Town v Ash

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v St Helens Blackpool Rovers v Newcastle Town, Chadderton v Salford, Clitheroe v Atherton LR, Darwen v Burscough, Haslingden v Maine Road, Ridsgrove v Warrington, Massley v Rossendale, Nantwich Town v Holker Old Boys; Prescot Cables v Glossop North End; Vauxhall GM v Ramsbottom

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Great Wakering, Basildon U v Stanstead; Burnham Ramblers v Ilford, Concord Rangers v Bowers, East Ham v Hullbridge Sports, Southend Manor v Saffronwalden

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley Hill T v Malvern T, Bustleholme v Wolverhampton, Cradley Tn v Westfields, Ettingshall v Tividale, Ludlow T v Gornal A, Lye Town v Kington Tn, Stafford T v Darlaston, Walsall Wood v Stourport S, Wolverhampton C v Bloxwich S

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Stowmarket Disc v Sudbury Town Ely v Wisbech, Felixstowe v Clacton, Felixstowe v Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth v Warboys; Histon v Gorleston, Newmarket v Soham; Sudbury W v Halstead, Woodbridge Town v Tiptree, Wroxham v Harwich and Parkeston

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division, AFC Newbury v Gosport, Andover v East Cowes, BAT v Lymington, Blemerton Heath v Eastleigh, Christchurch v Cowes Sports, Downton v Totton, Romsey v Brockenhurst, Whitchurch v Aerostructures, Wimborne v Portsmouth

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Wootton, Buckingham v Bourne, Cogenhoe v Potton, Desborough v Mirrlees Blackstone, Eynesbury v Fold Sports; Northampton Spencer v St Neots, Spalding v Wellingborough, Stamford v Long Buckby, Stotfold v Yaxley

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE. First division: Horsham YMCA v Hassocks, Langney Sports v Pagham, Littlehampton v Hailsham, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Mile Oak, Portfield v Eastbourne Town, Ringmer v Chichester, Saltdean v Arundel, Selsey v Rednil, Whitehawk v Wick

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Pelsall V, Halesowen H v Willenhall, Pershore T v Sandwell; Rushall O v Wednesfield, Stapenhill v Chaselown; W Mid Police v Shirenal T

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Eastwood Denaby v Pickering, Hallam v Glasshoughton Welfare, Hucknall Town v Curzon Ashton, Liversedge v Hatfield Main, Ossett Town v Eccleshill, Ponteiract Colls v Brigg Town, Selby v Arnold, Thackley v Ossett Albion

AFA SENIOR CUP: Quarter-finals: NatWest Bank v Old Finchleans, Old Ignatians v Old Aloysians, Old Salesians v Old Dromicans, West Wickham v Norsemen

TOMORROW

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Fifth round

Arsenal v Crystal Palace (2.0)
† Manchester Utd v Barnsley (4.30)

Bell's Scottish League
Second division

East Fife v Queen of South (2.0)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmsford v Erith and Belvedere

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v Dundalk (2.0), UCD v Shamrock (3.15)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Melksham v Tiverton.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Bradford v Berkhamsted (12.30), Croydon v Everton (2.0)

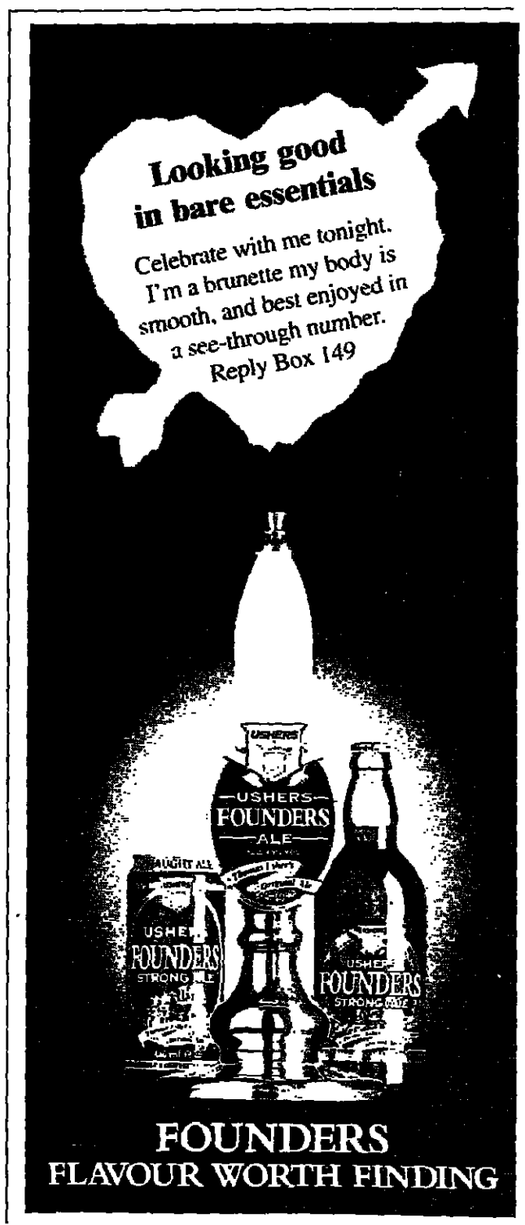
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Blyth Spartans v Coventry.



COVERAGE

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: Football Focus, from 12.20pm; Match of the Day (including extended highlights of Aston Villa v Coventry City and West Ham United v Blackburn Rovers), from 10.45pm (repeated tomorrow at 7.20am) Sky Sports 3: Spanish league (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: BBC1: Match of the Day (with highlights of Arsenal v Crystal Palace and Manchester United v Barnsley), from 10.25pm ITV: FA Cup fifth round, Arsenal v Crystal Palace (live) from 1.30pm Channel 4: Football Italia (live), from 1.45pm Sky Sports 3: FA Cup fifth round, Manchester United v Barnsley (live), from 4pm.

RADIO: Today: Coverage of FA Cup fifth round in Sport on Five, from 1pm Tomorrow: Coverage of both FA Cup games in Sunday Sport, from 1pm



هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY LEAGUE

Cup derby brings new season into sharp focus

By Christopher Irvine

WITH the Silk Cut Challenge Cup now a glorified pre-season competition for the 12 Super League clubs, fallers at the first hurdle have seven weeks to contemplate their misfortune. It is a situation that has brought inevitable calls for a seeding system.

Stuart Raper, the Castleford Tigers coach, has been among those advocating protection for the elite since his side were drawn to meet Leeds Rhinos at Headingley today in the most intriguing of the fourth-round ties. Mind you, while not wanting to provoke the ire of his coach, Brad Davis, a fellow Australian, put forward a relevant argument about the luck of the draw. "My first reaction when we got Leeds was that the cup will immediately come alive," he said.

The same thought must



Harris: new Leeds captain

have crossed the minds of BBC executives, who have increased their live coverage of the competition to feature two matches each weekend, building up to the final, on May 2. Rugby league is not exactly blessed with extensive terrestrial coverage and a Yorkshire derby of traditional intensity provides the ideal start.

Last season, Wigan Warriors never fully recovered from being beaten at St Helens in the fourth round. With four balls left in the bag at the draw last week, a repeat was possible, but St Helens, winners for the past two years, received an away tie at Featherstone Rovers — the second televised game — tomorrow.

With Halifax Blue Sox meeting promoted Huddersfield Giants in a farewell to Thrum Hall after 112 years, a second Super League side is destined to spend the remainder of February and March without a competitive match. Those, such as Leeds and Castleford, with serious Super League title pretensions cannot afford early elimination.

Through the additions of Barrie-Jon Mather, Michael Smith, Francis Maloney and Gael Tallec, all making their debuts, Castleford have given notice of their ambition this season. Leeds, although less active in the transfer market, have recruited wisely in Graham Murray, an alchemist among Australian coaches. Murray has resolved two questions by giving Iestyn Harris, 21, the captaincy and moving him to full back from stand-off half.

It is a question of balance and Tony Kemp is the more rounded playmaker. Both Kemp and Richie Blackmore, the New Zealand centre, have points to prove against their former club. Leeds have the edge, perhaps, with their robust and mobile pack, in which Marc Glanville, the formidable Australian, will make his first appearance.

St Helens begin their defence of the cup with Paul Sculthorpe, their £370,000 signing — a world record for a forward — in the second row, with Karle Hammond preferred at loose forward. London Broncos, too, are taking no chances by parading most of their close-season recruits at Batley, of the second division, — including John Timu, the former All Blacks centre.

Under John Monie, Wigan did not lose lost in the Challenge Cup in four years up until 1993. At the start of his second spell, he introduces a new Australian trio — Danny Moore, Mark Bell and Robbie McCormack — at Keighley Cougars. More vulnerable to lower-division opponents are Hull Sharks and Warrington Wolves, who are at Whitehaven and Wakefield, respectively.

Ovenden, from Halifax, are the amateur minnows up against Super League opposition today, when they face Salford Reds. Tomorrow, Ellenborough, the Amateur National Cup-holders and Cumbrian champions for the past three years, stand a better chance of progress, against Hunslet, of the first division.



GARY M PRIOR/ALLSPORT

Edwards, a triple-jumper with star quality, will be in the spotlight more often under Pascoe's new regime

Ringmaster Pascoe aims high

David Powell talks to the man charged with revitalising athletics presentation

Let the revolution begin. From offices in the heart of London theatre land, appropriately, a new choreography for Great Britain's main athletics stage productions is being planned. Alan Pascoe, the man in charge, talks of "showcasing the athlete" and of "specific attempts to present the events in a different way". Starting tomorrow.

Those with tickets for the Bupa indoor grand prix in Birmingham, or those watching Channel 4, will see Denise Lewis, the Commonwealth heptathlon champion, competing against ... herself. In a triple jump more akin to the head-to-head sprint challenge between Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey in Toronto last year than to traditional athletics, Jonathan Edwards will have only three opponents.

> 'His mind is buzzing with new ideas'

The idea is to start tempting back the lost crowds. "Short, sharp focus on every jump, maximum spotlight," Pascoe said. "When the jumpers are jumping, it will be the only thing happening."

Though we are one jump ahead of a formal announcement giving Alan Pascoe International (API), the sports marketing agency, rights to the year 2000 to organise and promote Britain's televised meetings, nobody doubts that agreement has all but been reached. This was the area that sent the British Athletic Federation (BAF) spinning into administration because of the money it owes athletes from promoting its own meetings.

Under an interim arrangement, API is "overseeing" the Bupa grand prix and Pascoe confesses to "worrying about press releases and selling seats" for the first time in ten years. He should be above all that, but this is a critical moment. Athletics, he says, is "just about hanging on to its national coverage".

A former golden boy of the track, Pascoe has demonstrated the Midas touch in business too. API's last registered turnover was more than £50 million and the boy from the Portsmouth council estate is now especially proud of his claim that "we have brought more money into British sport than any other agency".

Nobody can say the young Pascoe did not show business promise. When, in 1971, as an athlete at Borough Road College, he needed £150 to fund a match against the Amateur Athletic Association, he found a sponsor willing to pay £2,800. The following year, that meeting became the Philips Night of Athletics, packing them in at Crystal Palace. Pascoe is optimistic spectators will return. His mind is buzzing with ideas.

They include dimming the lights at floodlit meetings to highlight specific action areas; using "brightly coloured javelins"; colouring the grass in the throwing sectors so spectators can identify instantly the approximate distances; taping across the sandpit to show the leading mark in the horizontal jumps.

> 'He talks of showcasing the athletes'

The venue tomorrow, the national indoor arena, is where *Gladiators* is staged. "*Gladiators* gets huge audiences, but, in terms of physical performance, it does not rate on the same scale as world class athletics that is promoted in this country," Pascoe said. "Somehow, we have got to re-position that. We have got to make significant moves to strengthen its appeal.

"I was appalled last year at Crystal Palace when somebody was attempting a UK all-comers' record in the pole vault. They had hand-held boards and I could not read the height. I want to see that done properly with electronic scoreboards. I want to see markers for all field events. The video screen must become a vital part."

David Moorcroft, head of the BAF before it collapsed, is anxious to ensure that athletics does not sell its soul, abandoning the less attractive disciplines, but, if the governing body hands over its meetings to Pascoe, it will be left with little say in them.

"The sport has to accept that if somebody is going to take the risk — and it is a risk, whatever our heritage — with that risk goes the decision-making," Pascoe said. However, he plans to take care of development with "a series of feeder events".

All that said, the appearance in Birmingham of Haile Gebrselassie, for an attempt on the 2,000 metres world record, brings home the truth of one plain fact — that, if a Coe, Ovett, or Cram was to be discovered, most of Britain's troubles would be solved overnight. Pascoe looked up from his work sheet and said: "It would be an easy way out if we had another world record-holder in the 1,500 metres."

SPORT IN BRIEF

McCullagh begins to balance the books

SNOOKER: Expenditure has far exceeded prize-money during the first six years of Peter McCullagh's professional career, but the part-time accountant secured a positive entry in the ledger at the Regal Scottish Open in Aberdeen yesterday (Phil Yates writes). The 28-year-old from Dagenham, who has supplemented his meagre earnings from the game by working alongside his father in the family business, reached the second round with a 5-3 victory over Joe Johnson, the 1986 world champion.

McCullagh, who compiled breaks of 48, 58, 59, and 47 before potting the pink in the eighth frame to claim the most notable scalp of his career, now meets Fergal O'Brien, the Ireland World Cup player, for a place in the last 32. Sean Storey, of Grimsby, will provide the second-round opposition for Ken Doherty, the world champion, after a 5-3 win over Jon Birch. He did the bulk of the damage by establishing a 4-0 lead with breaks of 76, 64, 51 and 95.

Davies earns ban

BOWLS: Julie Davies, who won the Welsh women's indoor singles title for the third time at Merthyr on Thursday, has been banned from next year's national triples championship. The decision was taken by the Welsh Ladies Indoor Bowling Association because she failed to play in the zone semi-finals of the triples before Christmas.

Davies said: "I informed the competitions secretary, as required, more than 24 hours in advance. I was not invited to put my side of the case. The Rugby Football Union heard everyone before coming to a decision in the ear-biting case. The whole thing smacks of injustice."

Riders step forward

CYCLING: Twenty-three track and road riders were named yesterday in the new Brite Voice cycling team, the biggest sponsored squad in Great Britain. Backed by an annual budget of £500,000, it will make its debut in the Grand Prix of Essex on March 15. The squad, led by John Tanner, the Premier Calendar Series title-holder, plans to enter big continental events and the international Prutour, the new national stage race from Stirling to London, in May.

Knowles forced out

BADMINTON: Peter Knowles, who was unable to defend his English national title two weeks ago because of an ankle injury, has pulled out of the England squad that competes in the world team championships for the Thomas and Uber Cups in Sandefjord, Norway, next week. Asger Madsen, the England coach, is trying to contact the Copenhagen-based Peter Bush as a replacement. Both the men's and women's teams have been affected by a virus.

Two coaches banned

BASKETBALL: Two leading coaches — Kevin Cadle, of London Towers, and Mike Finger, of Birmingham Bullets — may miss their teams' top-of-the-table clash in the Budweiser League on Sunday week. Cadle has been fined £200 and suspended for one match for an outburst towards a referee last week. Finger has been fined £150 and banned for the Towers game over an incident after a game last month. Both can appeal to the English Basketball Association.

England turn tables

BOWLS: The England trio of Andy Thomson, Tony Allcock and John Ottaway surprised Australia in the first of three international matches at the Merrylands indoor bowls club, Sydney, yesterday, winning in all three disciplines — singles, pairs and triples. Don Sherman, the Australia team manager, had been predicting a 3-0 whitewash — but in his team's favour.

Boone faces outsider

RACKETS: The unseeded Toby Sawrey-Cookson will meet Willie Boone, the defending champion, in the final of the Lacoste British Open at Queen's Club tomorrow. Sawrey-Cookson, who beat James Male, the world champion, in the quarter-finals, defeated Matthew Windows, the No 5 seed, 4-0 yesterday. In the other semi-final, Boone eventually got the better of Mark Hue Williams, winning 4-2.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Bath v Wasps (3.0)
Bristol v Saracens (3.0)
Gloucester v Northampton (2.0)
Leicester v London Irish (3.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	10	10	0	0	322	166	20
Saracens	11	10	0	1	281	161	20
Bath	9	6	0	3	262	186	12
Leicester	10	6	0	4	280	212	12
Northampton	12	6	0	6	264	217	12
Gloucester	12	5	1	6	295	304	11
Richmond	12	5	0	7	290	295	10
Harlequins	11	5	0	6	272	307	10
Sale	11	4	1	6	322	287	9
Wasps	10	4	0	6	220	272	8
Bristol	11	2	0	9	171	396	4
London Irish	11	1	0	10	167	373	2

Second division

Blackheath v Rotherham (3.0)
London Scottish v Coventry (3.0)
Orrell v Exeter (3.0)
Wakefield v Bedford (2.30)
Waterloo v Moseley (2.15)
West Hartlepool v Fylde (2.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	14	14	0	0	531	213	28
L Scottish	15	10	0	5	376	290	20
Rotherham	15	8	0	7	371	288	16
Orrell	14	8	0	6	339	280	16
Waterloo	15	8	0	7	361	320	16
W Hartlepool	13	8	0	5	316	273	16
Coventry	15	8	0	7	277	357	16
Moseley	14	7	0	7	271	279	14
Blackheath	14	6	0	8	322	344	12
Exeter	15	5	0	10	244	346	10
Wakefield	14	3	0	11	235	351	6
Fylde	14	1	0	13	179	463	2

Jewson National League
First division

Liverpool St Helens v Otley (2.30)
Lydney v Newbury (3.0)
Morley v Leeds (3.0)
Nottingham v London Welsh (3.0)
Reading v Harrogate (2.30)
Rugby v Wharfedale (3.0)
Worcester v Rosslyn Park (2.30)

Second division north

Aspatria v Nuneaton (2.30)
Birmingham/S v Stourbridge (2.15)
Kendal v Sedgley Park (2.30)
Manchester v Preston G (2.15)
Sandal v Lichfield (2.15)
Sheffield v Hinckley (2.30)
Walsall v Winnington Park (2.30)

Second division south

Barking v Henley (2.15)
Camberley v Redruth (2.30)
Clifton v Bridgwater (2.30)
Havant v North Walsham (2.30)
Met Police v Esher (3.0)
Plymouth v Cheltenham (2.30)
Tabard v Weston-super-Mare (2.15)

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Charlton Park v Askeans, Chesham v Old Mid-Whitgiftians, Norwich v Wimbledon Ruislip v Basingstoke, Southend v Harrow, Sudbury v Sutton and Epsom, Thames Wanderers v Guildford and Godalming, Thurrock v Old Colfeians. SOUTH WEST, First division: Barnstaple v Launceston, Berry Hill v Penzance and Newlyn, High Wycombe v Marlow, Maidenhead v Gloucester Old Boys, St Ives v Bracknell, Stroud v Torquay. MIDLANDS: First division: Hereford v Banbury, Kenilworth v Broadstreet, Leighton Buzzard v Derby, Mansfield v Camp Hill, Scunthorpe v Burton, Stoke-on-Trent v Belgrave, Syston v Barkers Butts, Westleigh v Wolverhampton.

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians v Bridlington, Middlesbrough v Widnes, Stockton v Macclesfield, Tynedale v Broughton Park, West Park Bramhope v Doncaster, Wigton v New Brighton.

Welsh League
Premier division

Bridgend v Neath (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Cardiff (2.30)
Pontypridd v Newport (2.30)
Swansea v Llanelli (6.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Swansea	8	6	1	1	289	140	35	6	30
Cardiff	8	5	1	2	244	172	28	4	20
Pontypridd	8	4	2	2	230	150	29	5	19
Ebbw Vale	8	5	0	3	179	214	20	2	17
Llanelli	9	4	1	4	211	202	23	2	15
Neath	9	3	1	5	203	266	24	2	12
Bridgend	8	2	2	4	151	275	16	0	8
Newport	8	0	0	8	145	233	14	2	2

First division

Aberavon v Bonymaen (2.30)
Abertillery v Cross Keys (2.30)
Dunvant v South Wales Police (2.30)
Maesteg v Llandovery (2.30)
Newbridge v Rumney (2.30)
Pontypool v Blackwood (2.30)
Treorchy v Caerphilly (2.30)
Cardiff Institute v Merthyr (2.30)

SECOND DIVISION: Aberaman v Tenby Utd, Kenfig Hill v Tondu, St Peter's v Whitland, Llanharan v Pyle, Ystradgynlais v Tredegar, Narberth v Mountain Ash

Tennents Premiership
First division

Cuma v Heriot's FP (3.0)
Edinburgh Acads v W of Scotland (3.0)
Jed-Forest v Hawick (3.0)
Stirling County v Boroughmuir (3.0)
Watsonians v Melrose (3.0)

Second division

Biggar v Dundee HSFP (3.0)
Gala v Musselburgh (3.0)
Glasgow Hawks v Peebles (3.0)
Kelso v Kirkcaldy (3.0)
Preston Lodge v Kilmarnock (3.0)

Third division

Ayr v Aberdeen GSFP (3.0)
Glenrothes v Selkirk (3.0)
Gordonians v Grangemouth (3.0)
Stewartry v Glasgow Southern (3.0)
Stewart's Mel FP v Hillhead/J (3.0)

AIB League
First division

Ballymena v Cork Constitution (2.30)
Blackrock College v Dungannon (2.30)
Dolphin v Clontarf (2.30)
Garryowen v Shannon (2.30)
Old Belvedere v Old Crescent (2.30)
Young Munster v Terenure Coll (2.30)

Second division

Greystones v Bective Rangers (2.30)
Instonians v DLSP (2.30)
Malone v Sunday's Well (2.30)
Monkstown v Buccaneers (2.30)
Old Wesley v UCC (2.30)
Sl-ories v Galwegians (2.30)
Wanderers v Derry (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Leeds v Castleford (3.0)
Ovenden v Salford
(at Thrum Hall, 3.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Baverley, Leigh Miners v Woolston; Lock Lane v Mayfield; Oldham St Anne's v Askam; Saddleworth v Wigan St Patrick's; West Hull v Heworth. First division: Blackbrook v Thornhill; Eastmoor v Millom; Leigh East v East Leeds; Milford v Oulton; Redhill v Sharlaugh; Shaw Cross v Moldgreen; Wigan St Jude's v Barrow Island. Second division: Hull Dockers v Dodworth; London Students v Dewsbury Moor; Normanton v Eccles; Siddal v York Acorn.

HOCKEY

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier league: Anchorians v Tunbridge Wells; Essocats v High Wycombe; Fareham v Winchester; Gore Court v Bournemouth; Herne Bay v Trojans; Maidenhead v Beckenham; Old Whitgiftians v Wimbledon; Purley v Ramgarhs; Richmond v City of Portsmouth; Woking v Chichester. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Chobham; Camberley v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Cheam v Blandford; Dulwich v Basingstoke; Epsom v Old Georgians; Old Wallcountians v Andover; Oxted v Old Cranleighans; Portsmouth v Hasleme; Spencer v London University. Kent/Sussex: Eastbourne v Burnt Ash; Horsham v Folkestone; Lloyds Bank v Newhaven; Marden Russets v Middleton-Bognor; Mid Sussex v Blackheath; Old Bordenians v BBHC; Old Holcombians v Ashford; Old Williamsonians v Bexley Invicta, Sevenoaks v Brighton; Tulse Hill v Worthing. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Hayes; Bracknell v Gerrards Cross; City of Oxford v Hendon; Farnham Common v Ashford; Newbury v Milton Keynes; Old Kingsonians v West Hampstead; Richings Park v PHC Chiswick; Staines v Phoenix; Sunbury v Lions; Wokingham v Marlow.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Durham University v Harrogate; Formby v Sheffield Bankers; Neston v Norton; Southport v Ben Rhydding; Swalwell v Chester; Wigan v Timperley.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Buccaneers v Bristol University; Exeter University v Whitchurch; Swansea v Cheltenham; Taunton Vale v Robinsons; Weston-super-Mare v Clevedon.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Edgbaston; Coventry and North Warwicks v Khalsa; Hampton-in-Arden v North Stafford; Harborne v Nottingham, North Notts v Olton and West Warwicks; Northampton Saints v Blossomfield.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Ipswich; Cambridge City v Peterborough; Tric Cambridge University v Luton Town; Crosby v Colchester; Sudbury v Clacton. Premier division B: Bedford v Romford; Bury St Edmunds v Redbridge and Ilford; Dereham v Ipswich and East Suffolk; Old Southendian v Norwich City; St Ives v West Herts.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton Scottish Lib v Slough; Clifton Terrapreet v Sutton Coldfield; Doncaster v Trojans; Highdown v Ipswich. First division: Wimbledon v Canterbury; Bradford Swithenbank v Bracknell; Sunderland Bedens v Leicester; Loughborough Students v Chelmsford Highway. Second division: West Witney v Old Loughtonians; Sherwood v Ealing; Aldridge v Blueharts; Woking Swifts v Poynton.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bury St Edmunds v Ashford; Dereham v St Albans; Harleston v Cambridge City; Welwyn Garden City v Ipswich. Midlands: Belper v Kettering; Hampton v Crimson Ramblers; Leicester v Luton; North Staffs v Pickwick. North: Chester v Blackburn; Leyland M v Wirrington Park; Liverpool Sefton v York; Wath v Sheffield. South: Hampstead v Winchester; Hendon v Southampton; Maidenhead v Dulwich; Reading v Horsham; Tulse Hill v Winchmore Hill. West: Colwall v Cheltenham; Leominster v Bournemouth; Redland v St Austell; Taunton Vale v Exeter; Yate v Exmouth.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Sheffield Sharks (7.30); Leicester Riders v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30); Worthing Bears v Derby Storm (8.0).
BOXING: European cruiserweight championship (vacant): T Dunstan (Hackney) v A Gurov (Ukr) (at Elephant & Castle, London).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle Cobras v Cardiff Devils (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Bracknell Bees (7.0); Basingstoke Bison v Manchester Storm (6.30).
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Stockport v Hulmeans; Timperley v Poynton; Old Waconians v Heaton Mersey; Mellor v Boardman and Eccles; Cheadle Hulme v Sheffield University.
SNOOKER: Scottish Open (In Aberdeen)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Newcastle v Harlequins (3.0)
Richmond v Sale (3.0)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Wales (at Waterloo, 2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round

Barrow v Widnes (3.0)
Batley v London (3.15)
Ellenborough v Hunslet
(at Workington 3.0)
Featherstone v St Helens (1.45)
Halifax v Huddersfield
(at Thrum Hall, 3.0)
Keighley v Wigan (3.0)
Lancashire Lynx v Dewsbury (3.0)
Leigh v Sheffield (3.0)
Rochdale v Bradford (3.0)
Swinton v York (3.0)
Wakefield v Warrington (4.0)
Whitehaven v Hull (3.30)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Bupa indoor Grand Prix (at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Leicester Riders (5.30); Birmingham Bullets v Crystal Palace (6.30); Watford Royals v Worthing Bears (3.0). London Leopards v London Towers (5.0)
CYCLING: Circuit of Forestside (37 miles, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, 11.0); Central Sussex (25 miles, Cowfold, 9.0)
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Cobras (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Nottingham Panthers (6.30); Manchester Storm v Cardiff Devils (5.0); Bracknell Bees v Basingstoke Bison (6.0)
SCHOOL 2.0: Bournville v Oxford University at King Edward's Girls School, Birmingham, 2.30); Chelmsford v Surbiton (at Chelmer Park, 2.30), Firebrands v Isca (at Longwood, Bristol, 1.0), Gloucester City v Lewes (at Plock Court, 1.30); Harleston Magpies v Hampstead and Westminster (at Shotford Heath, 2.30); Hull v Bromley (at Dane Park Road, 2.0), Indian Gymkhana v Oxford Hawks (at Thornbury Avenue, Isleworth, 2.0); Loughborough Students v Warrington (at Loughborough University, 2.30); Sheffield v Havant (at Abbeydale Park, 2.30); St Albans v Stourport (at Clarence Park, 2.0)
WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Fifth round: Clifton v Chelmsford (at Clifton College, 10.30); Doncaster v Poynton (12.30), Harleston Magpies v Trojans (11.0), Leicester v Slough (at King Edward VII School, 2.30); Loughborough Students v Olton (12.30); Sutton Coldfield v Bracknell (12.30), Welton v Highdown (at Hall Road, Hull, 2.0); Woking v Aldridge (1.30).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	90	255	good	varied	slushy	sun 0	21/1
(Most pistes still skiing well despite mild weather)							
Tignes	105	190	fair	varied	worn	sun 5	20/1
(Some lower runs getting very rocky in places)							
Val Thorens	130	250	fair	crusty	fair	sun 6	22/1
(North slopes good, south worn with some slush)							
SWITZERLAND							
Klosters	20	120	fair	varied	fair	sun -8	8/2
(Pistes very well prepared and enjoyable)							
Saas Fee	50	185	hard	packed	rocky	sun 3	20/1
(Glacier pistes good down to 2,500m)							
Zermatt	50	115	fair	varied	slush	sun 5	20/1
(All three areas good at altitude)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

BOXING

Dunstan gambles in Europe

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

TERRY DUNSTAN is risking his chance to challenge for a world championship next month when he meets Alexander Gurov, of Ukraine, for the vacant European cruiserweight title at the Elephant and Castle tonight.

Thanks to Frank Maloney's links with Don King, Dunstan has been given a chance to challenge for the International Boxing Federation title held by Imamu Mayfield, of the United States.

Dunstan must be really confident of beating the Ukrainian, who has held the European title twice. At 29, Dunstan is three years older than Gurov, but inside-the-distance defeats at the hands of Nate Miller, the World Boxing Association champion, and Patrice Aouissi have left him looking a little battle-weary.

In his bout with Trevor Small, of Birmingham, who is no more than an average domestic fighter, Gurov was on the floor after receiving a right hand in the sixth round. The Ukrainian got up quickly to dispose of Small in the same round.

Dunstan, however, looked more impressive in his win over Small and had no trouble in forcing him to retire after the fourth round.

The only concern about Dunstan is whether he can make the cruiserweight limit of 13st 8lb. He has been boxing at 14st 11lb. If he is happy at the weight, Dunstan should be capable of stopping Gurov inside six rounds.

Virgin MegaSavers.

£299 return

SEAT BACK TV IN ECONOMY.

For world beating offers that include all taxes, call us by 19 February on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic

Fares are subject to change prior to travel commencing. Must purchase by 28 February 1998. Valid for travel 1 March to 31 March 1998. Limited availability. Other restrictions apply.

RUGBY UNION

Robinson sets way forward for Bath

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE foxes of Newcastle and Saracens may have opened a considerable gap at the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership between themselves and the chasing pack, but at least the hounds gave tongue this week. Bath may have left it late to catch them, but if they can reproduce the form that beat Gloucester on Wednesday, the two leading clubs will know they can afford no slips.

"If they can play that way, Bath are the best side in the division," Richard Hill said after watching Gloucester run ragged at the Recreation Ground. Hill, director of rugby at Kingsholm, knows better than most of the strength running through a club that has under-performed this season but which now, with the Heineken Cup on the mantlepiece, could yet mount a sustained assault on the Premiership title.

"That game [against Gloucester] was about setting standards," Andy Robinson, the Bath director of coaching, said. "It is how we want to continue." He did not say so, but at the front of Robinson's mind was the damage done to the club's name by the long-running Kevin Yates affair; that will not be erased, but, by their performance on the pitch, Bath can go a long way towards restoring their image.

"The one thing Bath have done over the last 13 or 14 years is keep learning," Robinson said. "In the professional era, we have had to learn very fast, but we have worked through all our problems. What's happened is part of our history, but I hope that teams will always be judged on their rugby. We have a lot of weight off our shoulders because we have won something."

Victory today over Wasps, the 1997 champions, would keep Bath in contact and though Robinson can restore Jeremy Guscott and Mark Regan to his team, he will be without Richard Webster, one of his best players, against Gloucester. The former Wales flanker requires surgery to a knee, but it will be cold comfort for Wasps — who bring in one former Bath lock for another, with Andy Reed replacing Damian Cronin — that Eric Peters replaces Webster.

Peters scored three late tries against Gloucester, who must now demonstrate their recuperative powers against another in-form club, Northampton. They will be pleased to have three key players — Chris Catling, Scott Benton and Peter Glanville — fit again and will hope that young Phil Vickery can show that he has taken to heart the harsh lesson taught him by Garry Pagel, the South Africa prop, who gave Vickery a masterclass during Northampton's 30-11 cup win over Gloucester three weeks ago.

It did not stop Vickery's elevation to the England replacements in Paris last week, but it has given the Cornishman a new resolve: "I want to make sure that when I have the chance [to play for England], I'm ready," he said. "I don't want to be a one-minute wonder."

At 21, Vickery is still learning his trade on the tight-head side. "He is 60 per cent of the player he can be," Hill said. "He wasn't even a first choice last season and we will know more about him, and whether he can learn, after Saturday. But he has talent, he's big, strong, aggressive in the right way and a good ball-handler." The more experience Vickery has, the better and his selection in Clive Woodward's England squad to prepare for next weekend's meeting with Wales indicates a glowing future.

Northampton's squad includes Tim Rodber and Matt Dawson, who were forced to withdraw from the England replacements against France because of injury. The starting XV will be confirmed this morning, but Dawson is expected to be at scrum half at Kingsholm, where his club have not won for six years.

Newcastle, eight points ahead of Bath having played one game more, should maintain their unbeaten Premiership record tomorrow against a Harlequins side deprived by a hamstring injury of Thierry Lacroix at fly half. Saracens, level with Newcastle, will be unchanged for the third successive match at Bristol today.

John Bentley, the British Isles wing, begins his loan period from Newcastle with Rotherham as the Yorkshire seek to sustain their drive towards the top of the second division at Blackheath.

Nottingham, whose struggles last year were highlighted in these columns, are in a far healthier position in the league than two months ago. They may find London London Welsh too much for them today, but David Rollo, their commercial manager, believes that a strict financial scrutiny is bearing fruit, allied to the willingness of players and officials to forego pay.

"We've paid only top creditors and had a lot of help," Rollo said. "We are 90 per cent of the way there with the consortium." Detailed plans of the club's survival package are likely to be explained at a special general meeting within the next six weeks.

Natural born thriller who is driven by the desire to be a winner



Chalmers believes he has a few more years ahead of him on the international stage and is using his experience to help the new Scotland players. Photograph: Mike Wilkinson

Chalmers looks on bright side of life

Scotland are on the verge of a new era of success according to their most-capped fly half. He is determined to be at the forefront

There has been so little good news out of Scottish rugby in recent months that last weekend, when their efforts were blessed with victory in Ireland, it seemed inevitable that Craig Chalmers and Gary Armstrong would be at the heart of it. Their names go together naturally, like all good half-back pairings — bacon and eggs, Chisholm and Hastie, Rutherford and Laidlaw, Chalmers and Armstrong.

It has been so for nearly ten years now, with the occasional hiatus because of injury, temporary retirement (Armstrong) and selectorial whim. Yet Chalmers remains much the same as when he made his international debut against Wales in 1989; the confident stride, light on his feet, the swagger of a natural competitor.

His was an old head on young shoulders from the beginning, when he was just 20. Now 29, he is Scotland's most-capped fly half with 52 appearances, to which should be added another four caps at centre, three this season, which seems a cavalier way to treat so experienced a pivot, even with the talented Gregor Townsend in competition.

Fly halves must also be optimists: not for Chalmers the doom and gloom that sometimes emanates from the glens. He talks of players with whom he grew up in Melrose, gifted sportsmen who did not care to contemplate the hard work necessary to complement talent, but whose ilk may yet find their way into a Scotland side that now perceives the Five Nations Championship in a rosier hue after the win over Ireland.



DAVID HANDS

Chalmers grew into a rugby tradition: in the little village of Gattonside, just outside Melrose, lived two British Isles players, Frank Laidlaw and the late Jock Turner, whose scrapbooks the schoolboy Chalmers avidly devoured. There was the teaching of Brian, his father, who died a year ago while watching Melrose playing but whose way was always to try to draw more, by constructive criticism, than his son may have thought he had to offer.

"Every time when I came back from an international or a club match, my Dad would tell me what I'd done wrong because he wanted me to improve," Chalmers, whose younger sister, Paula, is a dual international at rugby and hockey, said. "I still go through all the things he used to tell me before a game, but I've always been a goal-setter. I set a target at the start of each season and I've been lucky that, if things haven't gone so well for Scotland, I've always won a championship or a cup with Melrose.

"The only time I was dropped from the Scotland squad, in 1994, I was captain of the Melrose side that won the league." That year may have been a reaction to the events of the previous 12 months, when Chalmers was in the form of his life but broke his arm playing against England at Twickenham and missed the opportunity to tour New Zealand with the British Lions as a result. It was his worst disappointment in the game, particularly after being part of the successful Lions squad in Australia in 1989, but where he conceded the No 10 jersey to Rob Andrew in the two international matches that they won.

Now, though, there is a strong maturity about Chalmers that virtually demands that he should play in his favoured position ahead of the mercurial Townsend. It stems from experience, from a sense of belonging — his wife, Lucy, and three sons, Sam, 4, Ben, 2, and Robbie, 7 months, make a lively household — but also a knowledge that he can contribute to a new era in Scottish rugby.

Just as the youthful Chalmers was surrounded by decision-makers — Sean Lineen, the Hastings brothers, Finlay Calder, John Jeffrey — when he began his international career, now he can advise the youngsters making their way today. "I remember what it's like when you're coming through and a few words can calm the nerves," he said. "We have lads coming through who will develop into hardened internationals, but it doesn't happen overnight.

"I'd like to help get Scotland back on the map. We've had a couple of bad results, against Australia who were a poor side, and against South Africa, who weren't, and we need a solid base from the championship. Two or three wins in the Five Nations would make us more than happy and we have France and England coming to us and Wales playing away from their own home, at Wembley."

> 'It makes such a difference to have had a win — the smile is back on faces'

Chalmers shrugs his shoulders at the criticism from former Scotland captains, Calder among them, showered on the present administration: "I know what they're shouting about and it's not all to do with playing, but a lot of those who knock the team forget they've been in similar situations and sometimes the memory is a bit short," he said. "It makes such a difference to have had a win — the smile is back on the faces, the heads are up, there is a bit of confidence and it's the Five Nations results which are important to the public."

There is the here and now, there is also the future. Chalmers had a happy and flexible relationship while working for Scottish Power, with whom he still maintains links, but he perceives a role within rugby when he finishes playing. Coaching, the development of youngsters is something that he already enjoys. "As a stand-off half, you get a good knowledge of forward and back play, but I'll review the situation after the World Cup," he said. "I feel I've got three or four good years left."

When he sees such players as Michael Lynagh and Andrew still plying their trade at 34, Chalmers knows that a prolonged playing future remains an option. His present contract with the Scottish Rugby Union takes him to the 1999 World Cup and, thereafter, the prospect of a season in the southern hemisphere has a certain appeal. He nearly shook the dust of Scotland from his shoes in 1992 when a move to Leicester was on the cards, but was persuaded to stay; when the Australians toured last autumn, the lure of a season with ACT in Canberra was trawled before him, but, while the competitor in him would enjoy the challenge of the Super 12, it will not happen yet.

Not while he and Armstrong, a mutual support group, are the hub of a team looking to them for guidance. There is no limit to Chalmers's admiration for the scrum half with whom he has played 29 times. "He's one of the guys who, if you went into battle, you'd want alongside you," he said. "I'm different in many ways, but we have the same mentality. We're competitors, we both want to be No 1 in our positions, we want to win."

Guilty verdicts on and off the pitch

After the Yates inquiry comes another to find reasons for dismal defeat in Paris

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO

From everyone's point of view, there must be widespread relief that the Kevin Yates saga is over — at least for now. I don't think it is conclusive enough to say that one man was guilty of what happened — that Yates, who has always protested his innocence and who says he is going to appeal, was guilty.

I wasn't present at the hearing, but my initial reaction, having watched the video (which, I understand, was the leading evidence), is that the film is not conclusive. He will appeal, but there's a cost implication as well and, having been involved in legal matters of a different nature with regard to my own family, I know how expensive that can be.

It was obvious that, if he were found guilty, there would have to be a ban. I think if you look at what has happened in the past, with Neil Back being banned for six months for the shoving incident with the referee in the 1996 Pilkington Cup final, this falls into line with what you might have expected.

But if you look at it from a global and sporting point of view, Mike Tyson was banned for a year and fined £2 million, but that was because he was clearly guilty. Clive [Woodward, the England coach] has said that he won't rule Kevin out of contention for England, so it will be up to him to put in the performances when he does return.

Talking of England, I'm still coming to terms with what happened in Paris. It was very disappointing. We were beaten by a side that played well on the day. Individuals played badly and I wasn't happy with my own performance.

We kicked far too much ball away, turned over too much ball, our tackling wasn't as aggressive as it should have been and we lost crucial lineouts on our own ball, which is unforgivable. France did not do anything special. They played a very structured and disciplined game, which is unlike France, and capitalised on our mistakes.

I still firmly believe we have the potential to beat anyone in the world, but what the France game showed was that, mentally, we aren't right and if you don't go into the game in the right frame of mind, you will lose. We had almost got to the situation where we were extremely confident about what we were doing. We didn't consider what would drive the French towards victory after their 50-point humiliation against South Africa. They had a new captain, a new stadium and a lot of new players. They went into the game with the same motivation as we did against the All Blacks — with a point to prove.



We still have points to prove as a team — indeed, a lot of points to prove. I am a firm believer that things are meant to be and we were meant to lose that game. People say: "Surely you have got to win a game soon?" It does bite away at you, but we have enough self-belief as a squad. We must ensure, though, that we are as strong as we can be mentally.

France highlighted what they felt they had to do to ensure that England did not play. There was no doubt that certain individuals came in for special treatment, but you have to accept that.

I am not saying I was targeted, but they knew that if they put the squeeze on in certain areas — the scrum, at half backs and midfield — if they could get us going backwards, then we would struggle to put together the patterns we wanted to.

Clive Woodward called me, Paul Grayson and Kyran Bracken in on Tuesday to analyse what went wrong. You have to take a deep breath and wait 24 hours to allow the disappointment of defeat to permeate your bones before you start picking up the video. We have had to look at areas where things didn't go right and it starts up front.

I was packing down No 8 at the scrum, with Kyran at No 9 and Paul at No 10. It is important to get from the key decision-makers what went wrong and why. When we meet on Monday, we will have had a week to reflect on the game and will know what to expect in the build-up to the Wales game.

Jon Wilkinson's inclusion in the full squad is refreshing. He is a player of immense talent — one of the few English-born players who can kick a ball between the posts. His selection is an indication of Clive's thinking for the World Cup. Jon is a player for the future. At Newcastle, he is surrounded by players who have experienced rugby at the very highest level. They will play him when he is ready — not before.

> 'What the France game showed was that, mentally, we aren't right'

What you don't want to do is put him in the team and for things to go badly and knock his confidence, perhaps irreparably. He needs to be able to go in and actually control the game right from the start, especially in his position. If not, you can lose respect from your team pretty quickly.

He's potentially a very good No 10 and he can kick goals. If you look beyond Grayson at the moment, there's no one you would put your mortgage on who could kick goals consistently. That has to be a concern for English rugby and one that needs to be addressed urgently.

Exiles look to Venter for revival

BRENDAN VENTER, South African rugby's latest export to the English game, arrived in London last night keen to accept the challenge of reviving London Irish, the Allied Dunbar Premiership's bottom club (Peter Bills writes).

Venter, 28, has signed an 18-month contract with an option for a third year at Sunbury, just months after helping Free State come within two points of taking the Currie Cup in South Africa.

The experienced centre, who has made almost 120 provincial appearances in South Africa, is just what struggling Exiles need, according to Chuck Nelson, the club's chief executive. "We have signed a world-class back who has the leadership qualities to help pull together our back line."

Venter, who played 14 internationals for South Africa between 1994 and 1996 and appeared in the World Cup final as a replacement, said that it had been a difficult decision to move to London.

"I felt I was playing probably the best rugby of my career last season, but when a couple of guys were picked ahead of me for the South African side, that made me despondent," he said. "Now, I am delighted to have accepted this challenge."

Venter is likely to make his debut in the crucial relegation match against Bristol on February 28.

TIMES RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

ATTACK

Allied Dunbar Premiership first division clubs are ranked in terms of points, tries and penalty goals scored plus the percentage of matches in which they have scored tries. The best overall side is calculated by averaging the performance in each category. The figures in brackets denote rankings in each category

		Points	Tries	Pens	Tries sc'd	Overall
1	Bath	29 11 (3)	3 22 (3)	3 00 (3)	100 (1)	3 00
2	Sale	29 27 (2)	3 45 (2)	2 18 (8)	100 (1)	3 50
3	Newcastle	32 20 (1)	4 30 (1)	2 20 (5)	90 (7)	4 00
4	Leicester	28 00 (4)	2 80 (5)	3 10 (3)	90 (7)	4 75
5	Saracens	25 55 (5)	2 55 (7)	3 09 (4)	91 (4)	5 00
6	Harlequins	24 73 (6)	2 73 (6)	1 91 (11)	91 (4)	6 75
7	Gloucester	22 17 (8)	2 33 (8)	2 42 (6)	92 (3)	6 25
8	Wasps	22 00 (9)	1 70 (9)	3 40 (2)	90 (7)	6 75
9	Northampton	22 00 (9)	1 67 (10)	3 67 (1)	58 (12)	9 00
10	Richmond	23 33 (7)	3 00 (4)	1 75 (12)	83 (10)	8 25
11	London Irish	15 18 (12)	1 18 (12)	2 00 (9)	91 (4)	9 25
12	Bristol	15 55 (11)	1 36 (11)	2 00 (9)	73 (11)	10 50

DEFENCE

This table uses the same principle as the Attack table. The categories are fewest points, tries and penalties against plus the percentage of matches in which the opposition has failed to score a try

		Points	Tries	Pens	Tries ag	Overall
1	Saracens	14 64 (1)	1 09 (1)	2 18 (4)	27 (2)	2 00
2	Bath	20 67 (5)	2 33 (6)	1 89 (1)	22 (3)	3 75
3	Newcastle	16 60 (2)	1 10 (2)	2 90 (10)	20 (4)	4 50
	Northampton	18 08 (3)	1 92 (4)	2 08 (2)	8 (6)	4 50
5	Richmond	19 67 (4)	1 42 (3)	3 67 (12)	42 (1)	5 00
6	Leicester	21 10 (6)	2 00 (5)	2 60 (7)	10 (5)	5 75
7	Gloucester	25 33 (7)	3 00 (10)	2 17 (3)	8 (9)	7 25
8	Sale	26 09 (8)	2 64 (7)	2 73 (8)	9 (7)	7 50
9	Wasps	27 20 (9)	2 70 (8)	2 80 (9)	10 (5)	7 75
10	Bristol	35 09 (12)	4 64 (12)	2 18 (4)	9 (7)	8 75
11	London Irish	33 19 (11)	4 27 (11)	2 36 (6)	0 (11)	8 75
12	Harlequins	27 91 (10)	2 91 (9)	3 00 (11)	0 (11)	10 25

LEADING SCORERS

POINTS

		ADP	EC	TBC	Rep	Total
1	G Rees (Wasps)	135	106	35	6	282
2	J Stransky (Leicester)	129	106	35	-	270
3	M Lynagh (Saracens)	166	64	21	-	251
4	P Grayson (Northampton)	113	67	26	40	246
5	M Mapletoft (Gloucester)	139	76	13	6	234

TRIES

1	M Horak (Leicester)	6	5	-	2	13
2	D Chapman (Richmond)	7	2	3	-	12
	V Tuigamala (Newcastle)	4	7	1	-	12
4	T Beim (Sale)	8	2	1	-	11
	P Lam (Newcastle)	6	5	-	-	11

ADP = Allied Dunbar Premiership Cup EC = European competition TBC = Tetley's Bitter Rep = national sides.

Compiled by Stephen McCormack

هكذا من الاهل

RACING: IRISH HOLD STRONG HAND IN TOTE GOLD TROPHY

Commanche Court can win host of admirers

By Chris McGrath

A WEEK of whispers and subversion reaches a more agreeable conclusion today, when the only mystery concerns the identity of secret admirers. Certainly, one feels sympathy for any Valentine remaining as baffled as Arthur Moore, who has been pestered repeatedly recently by rumours regarding the health of Graphic Equaliser, favourite for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury.

The Irish trainer is emphatic that these rumours are lacking in substance. His presumption is that the horse is paying the price for his status in the ante-post market since sauntering away with the Ladbroke Hurdle last month.

The fact is, however, that there has been persistent interest in his travelling companions, Commanche Court and Tidjani. The sensitive antennae of bookmakers have been all but crumpled by negative messages.

These will, at any rate, have struck a chord with those who found Graphic Equaliser too good to be true. A 4lb penalty for Leopardstown still leaves him with 12lb in hand, according to the Irish handicapper, and those who question his ability to repeat that form on faster ground neglect his fine fifth in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham last year.

That was his final start before joining Moore, who has already plundered valuable British handicaps this season with Major Jamie and Jeffell. Those successes, however, reflect a general strength in depth among Irish jumpers. It may prove profitable to accept that, if money does talk, it can do so positively as well as negatively. If there is nothing wrong with Graphic Equaliser, one can safely assume that there is plenty right with Commanche Court.

This was not so prior to The Ladbroke, for which he was favourite when failing to please Ted Walsh in his final preparation. His withdrawal looks as though it may now prove extremely prudent, as he is reportedly back to the form that saw him win so gamely under a big weight at the Leopardstown Christmas meeting. Last time he visited these shores, moreover, he won the Triumph Hurdle on ground similar to today's.

Though he stays well, he needed tactical speed there — which will prove a vital asset today, with so many of the 14 runners needing to be held up. Graphic Equaliser's superiority may have been exaggerated by the way he was able to quicken off a slow pace in The Ladbroke, and only Kerawi looks likely to prevent a repeat of that unsatisfactory situation.

It was a shrewd ride in similar circumstances that enabled Carl Llewellyn to dominate the Christmas Hurdle on Kerawi. That performance notionally leaves him well treated here, but the form is meaningless. The home defence may instead be led by Mr Percy, who is, by contrast, better than he looked when winning at Cheltenham last time.

He cantered into the lead after the second last, but idled badly in front and only held on by a neck from L'Opera. Even on the face of it, it was the performance of a progressive horse.

Carlito Brigante returned to form on unsuitable ground last time and remains on the same mark. Advocat, however, might be better off in the mud, while another Irish challenger, Native-Darrig, could need the run. Bellator has shaped well but must end a long spell in the wilderness for Toby Balding's stable, but Tidjani, owned by J P McManus, must be respected.

RICHARD EVANS

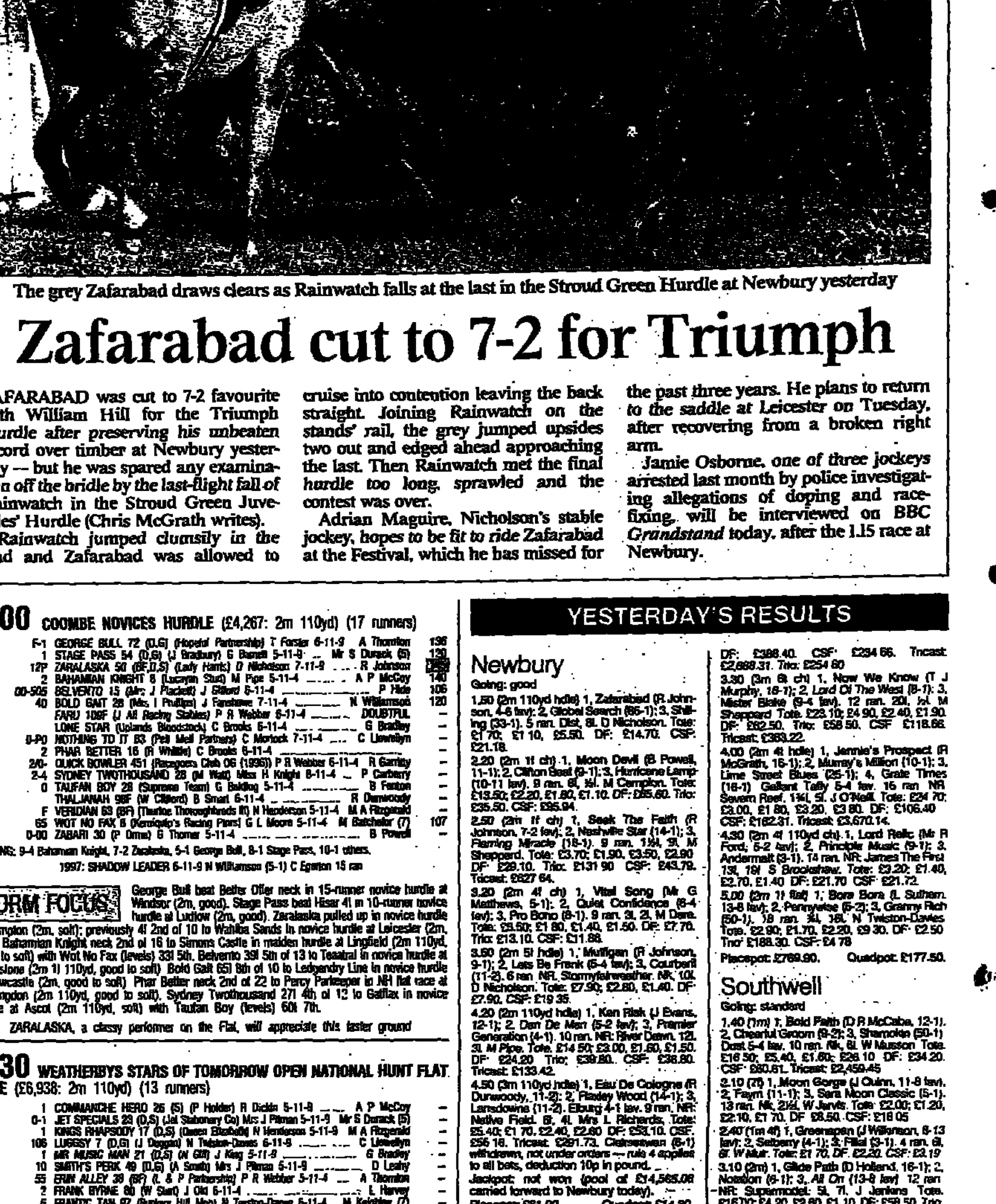
Nap: Mr Percy
(2.20 Newbury)

Mr Percy, a classy hurdler with a turn of foot, is a value bet to gain his third consecutive victory and enhance Josh Gifford's fine record as a trainer and jockey in the Tote Gold Trophy.

Next best: Toshiba Talk
(5.05 Ayr)

Police yesterday arrested another man in connection with their investigation into allegations of race-fixing and alleged doping of horses, bringing the total number of arrests to seven.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The grey Zafarabad draws clears as Rainwatch falls at the last in the Stroud Green Hurdle at Newbury yesterday

Zafarabad cut to 7-2 for Triumph

ZAFARABAD was cut to 7-2 favourite with William Hill for the Triumph Hurdle after preserving his unbeaten record over timber at Newbury yesterday — but he was spared any examination off the bridle by the last-flight fall of Rainwatch in the Stroud Green Juveniles' Hurdle (Chris McGrath writes).

Rainwatch jumped clumsily in the lead and Zafarabad was allowed to cruise into contention leaving the back straight. Joining Rainwatch on the stands' rail, the grey jumped upsides two out and edged ahead approaching the last. Then Rainwatch met the final hurdle too long, sprawled and the contest was over.

Adrian Maguire, Nicholson's stable jockey, hopes to be fit to ride Zafarabad at the Festival, which he has missed for the past three years. He plans to return to the saddle at Leicester on Tuesday, after recovering from a broken right arm.

Jamie Osborne, one of three jockeys arrested last month by police investigating allegations of doping and race-fixing, will be interviewed on BBC *Grandstand* today, after the 1.15 race at Newbury.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.15 Commercial Artist	2.50 Oban
1.45 Celibate	3.25 *Escartefigue*
2.20 Commanche Court	4.00 Zaralaska
	4.30 Mr Music Man

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 CARLITO BRIGANTE.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.15 VALENTINES DAY HANDICAP CHASE (BBC1)
(£7,442: 3m 2f 110yd) (5 runners)

101	1253-11	MCGREGOR THE THIRD 44 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 12-12-0	—	138
102	3-2234)	COURT MELODY 7 (B,D,G,S) (M Coburn) P Nicholls 10-11-13	T J Murphy	139
103	R1-34-4	COMMERCIAL ARTIST 63 (G,S) (L Morgan) O McCain 12-11-11	S Wynne	—
104	51-4U11	BRAVE HIGHLANDER 31 (D,G,S) (G Embiricos) J Gifford 10-10-11	P Hide	120
105	2P2-23F	HATCHAM BOY 28 (C,G,S) (R Mangan Green) O Nicholson 8-10-10	R Johnson	[143]

BETTING: 9-4 Court Melody, 5-2 Brave Highlander, 3-1 McGregor The Third, 7-2 Hatcham Boy, 20-1 Commercial Artist.

1997: CALL IT A DAY 7-11-12 A Maguire (11-4) D Nicholson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS McGregor The Third beat Staney Sauce a distance in 6-runner chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). Court Melody beat Destin D'Estruval 7l in 6-runner handicap chase grade II at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). Commercial Artist beaten a distance last of 4 to The Grey Monk in chase at Haydock (3m, good to soft), previously 33l 4th of 5 to Go Ballistic in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to firm). Brave Highlander beat Ocean Leader 11l in 9-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). Hatcham Boy fell in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, heavy), previously 7½l 3rd of 4 to God Speed You in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to soft).

HATCHAM BOY is sure to go close if putting in a clear round

1.45 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN GAME SPIRIT CHASE (BBC1)
(Grade II: £18,390: 2m 1f) (4 runners)

201	2124-P1	ASK TOM 70 (CD,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 9-11-10	R Garritty	173
202	33-1221	VIKING FLAGSHIP 49 (CD,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 11-11-10	R Johnson	172
203	-154512	CELIBATE 28 (F,G,S) (Stamford Bridge Partnership) C Mann 7-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	[175]
204	2111131	KADASTROF 21 (G,S) (R Paton) R Dickin 8-11-3	A Thornton	165

BETTING: 11-10 Ask Tom, 11-8 Viking Flagship, 6-1 Celibate, 14-1 Kadastrof.

1997: DOUBLE SYMPHONY 9-10-12 J Osborne (4-5 fav) C Brooks 3 ran

FORM FOCUS Ask Tom beat Viking Flagship (levels) neck in 7-runner chase grade I at Sandown (2m, good to soft) with Celibate (7lb better off) 20l 5th. Viking Flagship beat Lord Dorcet 1¾l in 4-runner chase grade 2 at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Celibate 1½l 2nd of 9 to Jeffell in handicap chase grade 2 at Ascot (2m, soft), previously beat Lord Dorcet 6l in 7-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft). Kadastrof beat The Land Agent 4l in 5-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft), previously 5½l 3rd of 6 to Monnaie Forte in handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft).

ASK TOM can take this en route to the Champion Chase at Cheltenham

2.20 TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (BBC1)
(Grade III: £57,621: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

301	1213-24	SHOOTING LIGHT 63 (D,G) (J Brown) P Murphy 5-12-0	R Dunwoody	158
302	31110/5	INDEFENCE 21 (D,S) (Indel Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-13	D Leahy	—
303	00-2361	KERAWI 49 (CD,G,S) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-12 (4ex)	C Llewellyn	149
304	111-21	COMMANCHE COURT 48 (D,G,S) (D Desmond) T Walsh (Ire) 5-11-11	N Williamson	160
305	120-211	MR PERCY 14 (D,F,G,S) (F Rosenfeld's Widow & Son) J Gifford 7-11-8	P Hide	159
306	1-01643	NATIVE-DARRIG 77 (D,F,S) (W Kenan) W P Mullins (Ire) 7-11-4	Mr R Walsh	155
307	0-P1120	TIBETAN 35 (D,G,S) (Mrs W Brown) Lady Herries 6-11-4	G Bradley	158
308	11-06	BELLATOR 28 (D,G) (P Richardson) G Balding 5-11-4	B Fenton	137
309	12F2-26	SHARPICAL 35 (B,D,G,S) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds III) N Henderson 6-11-1	M A Fitzgerald	140
310	1135-01	GRAPHIC EQUALISER 35 (D,S) (BRASK Synd) A L Moore (Ire) 6-11-1 (4ex)	C O'Dwyer	138
311	11-1120	NAHRAWALI 21 (D,F,G) (C Sparrowhawk) G L Moore 7-11-0	A P McCoy	170
312	12-0P53	CARLITO BRIGANTE 21 (D,F,G,S) (R Perkins) P R Webber 6-10-12	A Thornton	[178]
313	051/005	ADVOCAT 35 (D,S) (High Street Racing Synd) N Meade (Ire) 8-10-7	P Carberry	150
314	0023042	TIDJANI 6 (D,F) (J McManus) F Berry (Ire) 6-10-0	F M Berry (5)	158

Long handicap: Tidjani 9-13

BETTING: 7-2 Graphic Equaliser, 5-1 Commanche Court, 6-1 Kerawi, 8-1 Mr Percy, 10-1 Bellator, 12-1 Carlito Brigante, Nahrawali, Sharpical, Shooting Light, Tidjani, 16-1 Advocat, Tibetan, 25-1 Native Darrig, 40-1 Indefence.

1997: MAKE A STAND 6-11-7 C Maude (6-1) M Pipe 18 ran

FORM FOCUS Shooting Light 9¾l 4th of 8 to Relkeel in hurdle grade I at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Kerawi beat Shadow Leader ¾l in 5-runner hurdle grade I at Kempton (2m, soft). Commanche Court beat Hard News 1l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, heavy) with Advocat (4lb better off) 46l last. Mr Percy beat L'Opera neck in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft), previously beat Cadougold 4l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Kerawi (3lb better off) 5¼l 3rd, Native-Darrig (10lb better off) 10l 4th and Carlito Brigante (9lb better off) 22l 10th. Native-Darrig 3½l 3rd of 8 to Star Rage in handicap hurdle grade 2 at Newcastle (2m, good). Bellator 13l 6th of 14 to Nipper Reed in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Graphic Equaliser beat Notcomplainingbut 4½l in 20-runner handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good to soft) with Advocat (8lb better off) 5¾l 5th. Sharpical (6lb better off) 5¾l 6th and Tibetan (9lb better off) 6l 7th. Carlito Brigante 6½l 3rd of 10 to Shahrur in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with Nahrawali (levels) 19l 7th. Tidjani 1¾l 2nd of 13 to Amberleigh House in handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good to soft).

CARLITO BRIGANTE returned to form when third at Kempton and is well treated

2.50 HARWELL CHASE (Limited handicap: £7,191: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

401	31-3361	FLYING INSTRUCTOR 21 (F,G,S) (Lady Lyell) P R Webber 8-11-7	A Thornton	150
402	1F0-234	CERTAINLY STRONG 14 (BF,F,G,S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 8-11-6	R Johnson	147
403	540-010	KIBREET 56 (F,G,S) (T Warner) P Hedger 11-11-4	R Dunwoody	141
404	211-4PF	TERAO 28 (CD,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 12-11-3	A P McCoy	138
405	31P0-P5	GOLDEN SPINNER 28 (CD,G,S) (Sir P Miller) N Henderson 11-10-11	M A Fitzgerald	131
406	1/113-4	OBAN 28 (D,G,S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 8-10-10	G Bradley	[158]
407	5141P-P	DENVER BAY 49 (D,F,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 11-10-7	N Williamson	144
408	3FF5-14	OVER THE POLE 61 (D,F,G) (Pell Mell Partners) P Cheesbrough 11-10-7	C Llewellyn	151

Long handicap: Denver Bay 10-5, Over The Pole 9-12

BETTING: 11-4 Flying Instructor, 7-2 Certainly Strong, 4-1 Oban, 5-1 Kibreet, 7-1 Golden Spinner, 8-1 others.

1997: GOLDEN SPINNER 10-10-11 R Dunwoody (6-4 fav) N Henderson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Flying Instructor beat Nordance Prince 9l in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft). Certainly Strong 16l 4th to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Oban 27l 4th to Super Coin in handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, soft) with Golden Spinner (7lb better off) 34l last. Over The Pole distance 4th to Even Flow in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f, good).

TERAO needs to brush up his jumping but is well handicapped

3.25 TANGLEY NOVICES CHASE (£5,313: 3m) (4 runners)

501	/110-11	COPPER BOY 65 (C,F,G,S) (J Raymond) P Hobbs 9-11-12	B Powell	141
502	512-121	ESCARTEFIGUE 30 (D,G,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 6-11-12	R Johnson	[146]
503	412F2/3	DARK STRANGER 72 (S) (T Neill) C Brooks 7-11-2	G Bradley	—
504	46133-2	ONE WORD 21 (S) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 8-11-2	Mr S Durack (5)	—

BETTING: 1-3 Escartefigue, 11-4 Copper Boy, 10-1 Dark Stranger, 25-1 One Word.

1997: CYBORGO 7-11-6 R Dunwoody (10-11 fav) M Pipe 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Copper Boy beat Straight On 17l in 6-runner novice chase at Fakenham (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Escartefigue beat Radical Choice 13l in 7-runner chase grade 2 at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft). Dark Stranger 34l 3rd of 12 to August Twelfth in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good). One Word beaten a distance 2nd of 4 to Dinal Dancer in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft).

ESCARTEFIGUE has the best form and is open to further improvement

4.00 COOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (£4,267: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

601	F-1	GEORGE BULL 72 (D,G) (Hopeful Partnership) T Forster 6-11-9	A Thornton	136
602	1	STAGE PASS 54 (D,G) (J Bradbury) G Barnett 5-11-9	Mr S Durack (5)	130
603	12P	ZARALASKA 50 (BF,D,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 7-11-9	R Johnson	[138]
604	2	BAHAMIAN KNIGHT 8 (Lucayan Stud) M Pipe 5-11-4	A P McCoy	140
605	00-505	BELVENTO 15 (Mrs J Plackett) J Gifford 6-11-4	P Hide	106
606	40	BOLD GAIT 28 (Mrs I Phillips) J Fanshawe 7-11-4	N Williamson	120
607		FARU 108F (J All Racing Stables) P R Webber 6-11-4	DOUBTFUL	—
608		LONE STAR (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 6-11-4	G Bradley	—
609	0-P0	NOTHING TO IT 63 (Pell Mell Partners) C Mortock 7-11-4	C Llewellyn	—
610	2	PHAR BETTER 16 (R Whittle) C Brooks 6-11-4		—
611	2/0-	QUICK BOWLER 451 (Racegoers Club 06 (1996)) P R Webber 6-11-4	R Garritty	—
612	2-4	SYDNEY TWOTHOUSAND 28 (M Watt) Miss H Knight 6-11-4	P Carberry	—
613	0	TAUFAN BOY 28 (Supreme Team) G Balding 5-11-4	B Fenton	—
614		THALJANAH 98F (W Clifford) B Smart 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	—
615	F	VERIDIAN 63 (BF) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds III) N Henderson 5-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	—
616	65	WOT NO FAX 8 (Kemiqulo's Racing Pinns) G L Moore 5-11-4	M Batchelor (7)	107
617	0-00	ZABARI 30 (P Orme) G Thorner 5-11-4	B Powell	—

BETTING: 9-4 Bahamian Knight, 7-2 Zaralaska, 5-1 George Bull, 8-1 Stage Pass, 10-1 others.

1997: SHADOW LEADER 6-11-9 N Williamson (5-1) C Egerton 15 ran

FORM FOCUS George Bull beat Better Offer neck in 15-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Stage Pass beat Hisar 4l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Zaralaska pulled up in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft); previously 4l 2nd of 10 to Wahiba Sands in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Bahamian Knight neck 2nd of 16 to Simons Castle in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft) with Wot No Fax (levels) 33l 5th. Belvento 39l 5th of 13 to Teaatral in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Bold Gait 65l 8th of 10 to Ledgendry Line in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft). Phar Better neck 2nd of 22 to Percy Parkeeper in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Sydney Twothousand 27l 4th of 12 to Galllax in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft) with Taufan Boy (levels) 60l 7th.

ZARALASKA, a classy performer on the Flat, will appreciate this faster ground

4.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£6,938: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

1	1	COMMANCHE HERO 26 (S) (P Holder) R Dickin 5-11-8	A P McCoy	—
2	0-1	JET SPECIALS 23 (D,S) (Jet Stationery Co) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-8	Mr S Durack (5)	—
3	1	KINGS RHAPSODY 17 (D,S) (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 5-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	—
4	106	LUGGSY 7 (D,G) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-8	C Llewellyn	—
5	1	MR MUSIC MAN 21 (D,S) (N Gill) J King 5-11-8	G Bradley	—
6	10	SMITH'S PERK 49 (D,G) (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-8	D Leahy	—
7	55	ERIN ALLEY 38 (BF) (L & P Partnership) P R Webber 5-11-4	A Thornton	—
8	2	FRANK BYRNE 60 (W Start) J Old 6-11-4	L Harvey	—
9	6	FRANTIC TAN 97 (Bunkers Hill Moo) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	M Keighley (7)	—
10	0	NATURAL PARK 23 (R Cohen & Mrs B Gerbe) G McCourt 5-11-4	D J Moffatt	—
11	0	SEVEN O SEVEN 50 (J Danes (Stonehill)) P Goodall 5-11-4	B Fenton	—
12	0	TOM LOMAX 21 (T Brady) R Beckler 6-11-4	B Powell	—
13	60	TUDOR BLONDE 26 (P Purdy) P Purdy 7-10-13	C Rae (7)	—

BETTING: 3-1 Frank Byrne, 7-2 Jet Specials, 4-1 Kings Rhapsody, 5-1 Mr Music Man, 8-1 others.

1997: MR MARKHAM 5-11-8 P Hide (7-2 fav) J Gifford 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Commanche Hero beat Sweetlissajane 3l in 17-runner maiden NH flat race at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft) with Tudor Blonde (5lb better off) beaten a distance 15th. Jet Specials beat Tim French neck in 18-runner NH flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) with Natural Park (5lb better off) 44l 8th. Kings Rhapsody beat Repeat Offer 3l in 7-runner NH flat race at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft). Luggsy 33l 6th of 21 to Crazy Horse in NH flat race at Wetherby (2m, good). Mr Music Man beat Audacter 3l in 22-runner NH flat race at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with Tom Lomax (5lb better off) 38l 14th. Smith's Perk beaten a distance 14th of 16 to Jet Tabs in grade II NH flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, heavy); previously beat Conchobor ¾l in 16-runner NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Erin Alley 3½l 5th of 9 to Silanders A Azam in NH flat race at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft). Frank Byrne 3½l 2nd to Kentish Bard in NH flat race at Chepstow (2m, soft).

COMMANCHE HERO impressed on his debut at Fontwell and can follow up

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	3	6	50.0	P Carberry	7	19	36.8
J King	5	18	27.8	T J Murphy	4	16	25.0
Lady Herries	3	12	25.0	R Dunwoody	17	90	18.9
D Nicholson	20	90	22.2	N Williamson	8	64	12.5
Mrs J Pitman	8	45	17.8	A P McCoy	8	65	12.3
M Pipe	12	68	17.6	P Hide	9	77	11.7

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

1.30 Hillesden	3.10 **SWING WEST (nap)**
2.05 Overflowing River	3.45 Sparkling Cone
2.35 Joe Shaw	4.15 In Truth
	4.45 Nigel's Lad

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

1.30 EBF & MIKE SYRETT BIRTHDAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE
(£2,920: 2m 3f 110yd) (14 runners)

1	P0-F121	CHARLEY LAMBERT 67 (F,G) (R Mitchell & D Sasdan) J Mackie 7-11-10	E Husband (3)	[116]
2		BAYMAN (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 7-11-0	R Wilkinson (5)	—
3	34-24	BOMBADIL 56 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-0	J Magee (3)	90
4	6-50	CELTIC SEASON 58 (Five No Trumps Partnership) Miss H Knight 6-11-0	M Richards	106
5	45-2220	FERRERS 16 (G) (J Burl) Mrs P Sly 7-11-0	W Marston	112
6	F21-	FORESHORE MAN 334P (S) (J M G Plumpton) [illegible] 7-11-0	A S Smith	—
7	10	GUS BERRY 16 (S) (D Ferrier) D M Forster 6-11-0	A Acquaro (3)	90
8	625	HILLESDEN 30 (M Deeley) D Nicholson 5-11-0	R Thornton	105
9	225	JOE BUZZ 28 (J Buzzeo) F Murphy 6-11-0	Mr O McPhail (7)	—
10	0-5-300	SWYNFORD KING 17 (Coalisar Holdings Ltd) J Fearce 6-11-0	J Ryan	80
11	04	WILLIAM RUFUS 9 (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Sherwood 7-11-0	M Brennan	—
12	130-30	LEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 4 (G) (T French & R Arnold) S Gollings 7-10-9	D Gallagher	80
13	3-035	ORANGE IMP 63 (Mrs R Hughes) J FitzGerald 5-10-9	F Leahy (3)	—
14	60-P	WINNETKA GAL 70 (Mrs J Egan) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9	C Maude	—

BETTING: 7-2 Charley Lambert, 4-1 Hillesden, 7-1 Foreshore Man, 8-1 William Rufus, Orange Imp, 10-1 [illegible] Ferrers, 12-1 others.

1997: SPEKOID 5-11-0 R Johnson (4-1) D Nicholson 15 ran

2.05 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,998: 3m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	2P62-5P	WOODLANDS BOY 44 (F,S) (G Moore) F Curry 10-11-10	A Bates (5)	106
2	101-P13	COVERDALE LANE 79 (BF,G,S) (J Pilkington) Mrs S Smith 11-11-6	R Wilkinson (5)	114
3	P-5123	OVERFLOWING RIVER 56 (F,G) (J Austin) T Watts 9-10-8	A S Smith	101
4	551P4-0	HUDSON BAY TRADER 2 (C,G,S) (F Curry) P Beaumont 11-10-7	B Grattan (5)	100
5	-03-215	SIRERIC 21 (S) (C Bell) S Bell 8-10-0	R Johnson	[123]
6	P-30R05	THE SHY PADRE 9 (T Crawley) J Semple 9-10-0	J R Kavanagh	90
7	F0P-353	COOL RUNNER 23 (B,S) (G Noon) Mrs S Noon 8-10-0	R Thornton	120
8	0-F2344	MAMICA 9 (B,G) (R Groves) M Dods 8-10-0	D Gallagher	115

Long handicap: Sireric 9-13, The Shy Padre 9-13, Cool Runner 9-10, Mamica 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Coverdale Lane, 7-2 Cool Runner, 9-2 Overflowing River, 5-1 Sireric, 7-1 Hudson Bay Trader, 10-1 Mamica, 12-1 Woodlands Boy, 33-1 The Shy Padre.

1997: BARNTOWN BILL 8-10-8 D Walsh (8-1) M Pipe 10 ran

2.35 CLUGSTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,740: 2m 1f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	33-565P	OUR KRIS 14 (B,D,G) (Mrs R Sellery) M Sowersby 6-12-0	M H Naughton (5)	106
2	415-53	NIGHT DANCE 23F (CD,G) (Racecourse Medical Officers) K Morgan 6-11-9	A S Smith	116
3	1300-P	BUNGEE JUMPER 73 (B,F) (P Sadler) P Bradley 5-11-4	J F Titley	—
4	F02F-46	JOE SHAW 50 (BF) (F Gameson) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	P Niven	111
5	5431F51	PROVINCE 15 (B,D,S) (J Brady) C Mann 5-11-4	J Magee (3)	120
6	4315340	SYLVAN SABRE 9 (D,F,G) (J Freeman) D Shaw 9-11-2	M Brennan	118
7	11353-2	AMBIDEXTROUS 9 (S) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 6-11-3	L Cummins (5)	[125]
8	02514-	OVERSMAN 261 (S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 5-11-3	F Leahy (3)	116
9	5145-45	MEG'S MEMORY 22F (S) (Centaur Racing Ltd) A Streeter 5-11-1	T Eley	118
10	2121434	DOWN THE YARD 5F (CD,G) (S Whiting) M Chapman 5-10-13	W Worthington	120
11	3P24003	SIGMA WIRELESS 9 (F,G) (Mrs J Todd) T Easterby 9-10-12	R Supple	117
12	3/2-006	MILAN 15 (D Jackson) J L Harris 6-10-9	R Thornton	106
13	00-2031	AFRICAN SUN 15F (S) (N Flatman) M Chapman 5-10-0	J Goldstein (7)	112

BETTING: 4-1 Joe Shaw, 6-1 Province, 6-1 Ambidextrous, 6-1 Night Dance, Oversman, 10-1 Sylvan Sabre, Meg's Memory, Sigma Wireless, African Sun, 12-1 others.

1997: CIRCUS LINE 6-11-10 P Carberry (2-1 fav) [illegible] 14 ran

3.10 ROSELAND GROUP ST VALENTINES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (C4)
(4-Y-O: £4,456: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	212	SWING WEST 12F (BF,S) (N Gunn) P Eccles 11-4	J F Titley	[120]
2	2	BROCTUNE LINE 19F (D Playforth) Mrs M Reveley 10-12	P Niven	109
3	F	DR WOODSTOCK 84 (C Claremont Stone) [illegible] 10-12	M Moloney	—
4	4	ISLAND SANCTUARY 23 (Millers [illegible]) [illegible] 10-12	R Thornton	98+
5		KRIS GREEN 155F (P Cam) L Lungo 10-12	R Supple	—
6	5	SHALAAL 23 (S [illegible]) M Chapman 10-12	W Worthington	—
7	24	TANGO KING 91 (Lord Swaythling) [illegible] 10-12	M Richards	104
8	0	TORN SILK 49 (Lady Sanders) [illegible] 10-12	J A McCarthy	80+
9		ZIBAK 254F (Mrs L Otley) B McMahon 10-12	T Kent	—

BETTING: 2-1 Swing West, 5-2 Island Sanctuary, 7-2 Broctune Line, 7-1 Tango King, 12-1 Torn Silk, 20-1 Kris Green, Shalaal, 25-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Swing West 2l 2nd of 11 to Reebo in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft), previously beat Teasiral 9l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft). Broctune Line 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Lord Dracord in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Dr Woodstock fell in novice claiming hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Island Sanctuary 13l 4th of 15 to Legal Right in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) with Shalaal (levels) 23l 6th. Tango King 18l 4th of 11 to Prairie Minstrel in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to firm). Torn Silk a distance 7th of 13 to Upgrade in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft).

SWING WEST gets the vote but expect Torn Silk to improve on his debut

3.45 MIKE ALFOND CONSTRUCTION NOVICES CHASE (C4)
(£5,085: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	11-2112	SOUNDS LIKE FUN 22 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs [illegible] Brown) Miss H Knight 7-11-12	J F Titley	131
2	5P-11F	SPARKLING CONE 21 (BF,S) (Mrs M Paton) [illegible] 9-11-12	R Thornton	140
3	24P-435	CHEEKA 14 (J Thompson) C Smith 9-11-5	M Ranger	126
4	164-2P4	JOHN DRUMM 15 (F,G,S) (A Jenkins) P R Webber 7-11-5	S McNeill	111
5	-545042	JOHN TUFTY 16 (G) (J Tuffy) J Pearce 7-11-5	J Ryan	129
6	304C524	NON VINTAGE 25 (G,S) (J Marr) M Chapman 7-11-5	W Worthington	130
7	1P2-453	SPRING DOUBLE 20 (F,G,S) (Mrs [illegible] Semple) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-5	C Maude	[142]
8	0-40	SHARLEY COP 50 (Mrs S [illegible]) [illegible] 6-11-5	P Niven	—
9	1P-1234	SHARP COMMAND 91 (R [illegible]) P Eccles 5-10-9	D Gallagher	136

BETTING: 7-4 Sparkling Cone, 3-1 Sounds Like Fun, 4-1 Spring Double, 5-1 Non Vintage, 10-1 John Drumm, Sharp Command, 25-1 John Tufty, 33-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Sounds Like Fun 5l 2nd of 8 to Super Coin in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft). Sparkling Cone fell in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft), previously beat Well Timed 28l in 9-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Cheeka 55l 5th of 10 to Cuthill Hope in novice chase at Doncaster (3m 3f 110yd, good). John Drumm 28l 4th of 6 to Classy Lad in novice chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). John Tufty 17l 2nd of 5 to Peter's Gale in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Non Vintage 16l 4th of 18 to Jack Doyle in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to soft), previously 16l 2nd of 4 to Te Amo Sed in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, heavy) with Cheeka (levels) 25l 3rd and John Tufty (levels) 54l last. Spring Double 12l 3rd of 6 to Storm Passage in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Sharley Cop 29l 7th of 15 to Justin Mac in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft). Sharp Command 45l last of 4 to Smith Too in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 2f, good to firm).

SOUNDS LIKE FUN can take the measure of Sparkling Cone

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss H Knight	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	J F Titley	7	33	21.2
D Nicholson	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	W Marston	7	40	17.5
T Bailey	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	F Leahy	9	56	16.1
C Mann	5	19	[illegible]	R Supple	16	102	15.7
Mrs P Sly	5	19	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	30	13.3
N Twiston-Davies	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	R Thornton	4	31	12.9

Blinkered first time

AYR: 2.55 Ibn Masirah. CATTERICK: 2.10 Gamefly Forbes, 2.40 Talathath, 3.15 Mabella Express. LINGFIELD PARK: 1.45 Pablo, 4.25 Royale Finale, 4.55 Certain Surprise.

4.15 HABBERSHAWS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (C4)
(£10,406: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1	3P-3161	SHINING LIGHT 49 (D,F,G,S) (D Partnership) D Nicholson 9-12-0	R Thornton	138
2	23116-3	LANCE ARMSTRONG 28 (D,G,S) (G Porter) G McCourt 8-11-7	W Marston	[142]
3	2P-P546	EASTHORPE 21 (C,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 10-11-3	J F Titley	128
4	6045-33	PIMBERLEY PLACE 46 (B,S) (A Cresser) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-2	C Maude	130
5	-512343	SISTER ROSZA 18 (D,S) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 10-10-6	J Magee (3)	140
6	-232422	IN TRUTH 14 (C,D,G,S) (Mrs E Houlton) S Gollings 10-10-4	D Gallagher	136
7	/3P-R11	SIERRA BAY 16 (S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 8-10-2	J A McCarthy	140
8	50F1U22	MR FUDGE 8 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Robertson) M Sowersby 11-10-0	M H Naughton (5)	129

Long handicap: Mr Fudge 9-5

BETTING: 2-1 Sierra Bay, 3-1 In Truth, 6-1 Shining Light, 7-1 Sister Rosza, 8-1 Lance Armstrong, 12-1 Easthorpe, 16-1 Pimberley Place, Mr Fudge.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Shining Light beat Manor Mieo 2l in 8-runner handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Sister Rosza (11lb better off) 6l 3rd and In Truth (10lb better off) 11l 4th. Lance Armstrong a distance 3rd of 7 to With Impunity in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). Easthorpe 29l 6th of 10 to Even Flow in handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Pimberley Place 21l 3rd of 5 to Coole Hill in handicap chase at Stratford (3m, soft). Sister Rosza ¾l 3rd of 6 to Docs Dilemma in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, good). In Truth 8l 2nd of 16 to Speaker Weatherill in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m, good); previously 18l 2nd of 10 to Cattly Hang in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with Sister Rosza (3lb better off) 26l 4th. Sierra Bay beat Pegmarine 13l in 6-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Mr Fudge 1¼l 2nd of 5 to Nettegrity in handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good).

SIERRA BAY is fancied to complete a treble against some unpredictable opponents

4.45 CGR BOOTH MARKET RASEN GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)
(Qualifier: £5,423: 2m 5f 110yd) (19 runners)

1	40-0205	MOORISH 7 (S) (A Fitzpatrick) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-10	C Maude	157
2	112/20-	JACK BUTTON 441 (S) (Mrs S Jones) Bob Jones 9-11-5	R Hughes	140
3	51-2214	NIGEL'S LAD 7 (G) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 6-11-1	M Foster	165
4	2111/22	GREAT EASEBY 49 (D,G,S) (D Batey) W Storey 8-11-0	M Moloney	150
5	-441222	DANA POINT 14 (BF,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-10-13	R Wilkinson (5)	147
6	-242800	BALAWHAR 13 (S) (M Tabor) E O'Grady (Ire) 8-10-7	J R Kavanagh	158
7	164-411	TOMPETOO 22 (S) (Pelican Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-7	J Goldstein (7)	155
8	1/32-11	ARDRONAN 70 (G,S) (Mrs L Jaughan) J J O'Neill 8-10-4	S McNeill	155
9	-112U22	TOBY BROWN 21 (CD,G) (A Stennett/Mrs J Stennett) D Nicholson 5-10-2	R Thornton	147
10	10-3303	NO MORE HASSLE 14 (G,S) (No Hassle Plus) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-1	X Aizpuru (3)	[178]
11	0P-F630	MARCHANT MING 14 (G,S) (R Roper) M Hammond 6-10-0	A S Smith	158
12	2123.11	SPRING RHYTHM 38 (F,S) (Sporting Hat Racers) K Bailey 6-10-0	Mr R Wakley (3)	140
13	530-636	DALLY BOY 7 (F,G) (T Bennett) T Easterby 6-10-0	F Leahy (3)	139
14	4-F4223	CATS RUN 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs A Keyt) J Upson 10-10-0	R Supple	132
15	3-123U0	GENERAL MOUKTAR 131 (C,F,G,S) (A Helsson) M Pipe 8-10-0	D Fuhrmann	119
16	P-F1110	TORCH VERT 35 (V,BF,G,S) (P Green) M Pipe 6-10-0	DOUBTFUL	134
17	311P-21	CHERRY DEE 4 (S) (G Dragen) P Beaumont 7-10-0	B Grattan (5)	132
18	5236100	THIRTY BELOW 56 (F) (GB Racing) M Chapman 9-10-0	W Worthington	117
19	/000PP-	WILLIE WANNABE 338 (E Fetcaless) M Chapman 8-10-0	L Suthern (7)	—

Long handicap: Dally Boy 9-12, Cats Run 9-9, General Mouktar 9-5, Torch Vert 9-5, Cherry Dee 8-10, Thirty Below 7-8, Willie Wannabe 5-7

BETTING: 11-2 Spring Rhythm, 6-1 Tompetoo, 7-1 Nigel's Lad, Ardronan, 10-1 Moorish, Toby Brown, Great Easeby, 12-1 Dana Point, No More Hassle, 16-1 Balawhar, 20-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Moorish 11l 5th of 14 to Buckhouse Boy in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Jack Button 45l 8th of 11 to What A Question in hurdle grade II at Newbury (3m 110yd, good). Nigel's Lad 9l 4th of 8 to Effectual in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). Great Easeby 2½l 2nd of 8 to Campaign in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f, soft) with Dally Boy (2lb better off) 67l 6th; previously neck 2nd of 5 to Double Agent in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good) with Marchant Ming (5lb better off) 1¾l 3rd. Dana Point 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Lets Be Frank in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good) with No More Hassle (3lb better off) 2¾l 3rd. Balawhar 18l 8th of 11 to Zaitaran Run in handicap hurdle at Naas (2m 3f, good to soft). Tompetoo beat Gysart 8l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft). Ardronan beat No Gimmicks 2l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f, good). Toby Brown ½l 2nd of 13 to Three Farthings in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft). Spring Rhythm beat What's Your Story 9l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (3m, good to soft). Dally Boy 22l 6th of 12 to Royale Angela in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 6f, soft). Cats Run 35l 3rd of 9 to Sidedhill in handicap chase at Kelso (4m, heavy). General Mouktar a distance last of 7 to Copper Coil in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good). Torch Vert 29l 8th of 15 to Bold Classic in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, soft). Cherry Dee beat What Jim Wants 2½l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m, soft).

TOMPETOO is a tentative selection in a particularly tricky contest

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury
Going: good

1.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Zafarabad (R Johnson, 4-6 fav); 2, Global Search (66-1); 3, Shilling (33-1). 5 ran. Dist: 8l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £5.50. DF: £14.70. CSF: £21.18.

2.20 (2m 1f ch) 1, Moon Devil (B Powell, 11-1); 2, Clifton Beat (9-1); 3, Hurricane Lamp (10-11 fav). 9 ran. 6l, ½l. M Campion. Tote: £13.50; £2.20, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £65.60. Trio: £35.50. CSF: £95.94.

2.50 (2m 1f ch) 1, Seek The Faith (R Johnson, 7-2 fav); 2, Nashville Star (14-1); 3, Flaming Miracle (18-1). 9 ran. 1¾l, 9l. M Sheppard. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £3.50, £2.90. DF: £29.10. Trio: £131.90. CSF: £43.79. Tricast: £627.64.

3.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Vital Song (Mr G Matthews, 5-1); 2, Quiet Confidence (6-4 fav); 3, Pro Bono (8-1). 9 ran. 3l, 2l. M Dare. Tote: £5.50; £1.80, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £7.70. Trio: £13.10. CSF: £11.86.

3.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Mulligan (R Johnson, 9-1); 2, Lets Be Frank (6-4 fav); 3, Courbert (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Stormyfairweather. Nk, 10l. D Nicholson. Tote: £7.90; £2.80, £1.40. DF: £7.90. CSF: £19.35.

4.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Ken Risk (J Evans, 12-1); 2, Dan De Man (5-2 fav); 3, Premier Generation (4-1). 10 ran. NR: River Dawn. 12l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £14.50; £3.00, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £24.20. Trio: £39.80. CSF: £38.80. Tricast: £133.42.

4.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Eau De Cologne (R Dunwoody, 11-2); 2, Flaxley Wood (14-1); 3, Lansdowne (11-2). Elburg 4-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Native Field. 8l, 4l. Mrs L Richards. Tote: £5.40; £1.70, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £53.10. CSF: £56.16. Tricast: £291.73. Clairswan (8-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £14,565.08 carried forward to Newbury today).
Placepot: £31.90. Quadpot: £14.30.

Bangor
Going: good to soft

2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Racketball (C Llewellyn, 7-1); 2, Decoupage (10-11 fav); 3, Big Perks (12-1). 14 ran. NR: Cloudy Bill. 7l, 15l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £7.50; £1.10, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £4.70. Trio: £11.10. CSF: £13.00.

2.30 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Pepidist (D Bentley, 13-2); 2, Tejano Gold (5-2 fav); 3, Cool As A Cucumber (11-1). 12 ran. 7l, 9l. M Hammond. Tote: £6.30; £2.50, £1.90, £4.40. DF: £10.10. Trio: £153.50. CSF: £20.88. Tricast: £161.34.

3.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Eben Al Habeeb (S Wynne, 20-1); 2, River Wye (14-1); 3, Ericolin (10-1). Coral Island 13-8 fav. 11 ran. 6l, 13l. D McCain. Tote: £26.20; £5.60, £6.50, £3.70. DF: £388.40. CSF: £234.66. Tricast: £2,688.31. Trio: £254.60.

3.30 (3m 6f ch) 1, Now We Know (T J Murphy, 16-1); 2, Lord Of The West (8-1); 3, Mister Blake (9-4 fav). 12 ran. 20l, ½l. M Sheppard. Tote: £23.10; £4.90, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £82.50. Trio: £58.50. CSF: £118.66. Tricast: £363.22.

4.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Jennie's Prospect (R McGrath, 16-1); 2, Murray's Million (10-1); 3, Lime Street Blues (25-1); 4, Grate Times (16-1). Gallant Taffy 5-4 fav. 16 ran. NR: Severn Reef. 1¾l, 5l. J O'Neill. Tote: £24.70; £3.00, £1.80, £3.20, £3.80. DF: £106.40. CSF: £162.31. Tricast: £3,670.14.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Lord Relic (Mr R Ford, 5-2 fav); 2, Principle Music (9-1); 3, Andermatt (3-1). 14 ran. NR: James The First. 13l, 19l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £3.20; £1.40, £2.70, £1.40. DF: £21.70. CSF: £21.72.

5.00 (2m 1f flat) 1, Bora Bora (L Suthern, 13-8 fav); 2, Pennywise (5-2); 3, Granny Rich (50-1). 18 ran. 3¼l, 18l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.90; £1.70, £2.20, £9.30. DF: £2.50. Trio: £188.30. CSF: £4.78.

Placepot: £769.90. Quadpot: £177.50.

Southwell
Going: standard

1.40 (1m) 1, Bold Faith (D R McCabe, 12-1); 2, Cheerful Groom (9-2); 3, Shamokin (50-1). Dust 5-4 fav. 10 ran. Nk, 8l. W Musson. Tote: £16.50; £5.40, £1.60, £26.10. DF: £34.20. CSF: £60.61. Tricast: £2,459.45.

2.10 (7f) 1, Moon Gorge (J Quinn, 11-8 fav); 2, Faym (11-1); 3, Sara Moon Classic (5-1). 13 ran. Nk, 2½l. W Jarvis. Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £8.50. CSF: £18.05.

2.40 (1m 4f) 1, Greenspan (J Wilkinson, 8-13 fav); 2, Selberry (4-1); 3, Filial (3-1). 4 ran. 6l, 8l. W Muir. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.19.

3.10 (2m) 1, Glide Path (D Holland, 16-1); 2, Notation (6-1); 3, All On (13-8 fav). 12 ran. NR: Supermodel. 5l, 7l. J Jenkins. Tote: £18.00; £4.20, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £58.50. Trio: £57.30. CSF: £98.18. Tricast: £223.11.

3.40 (6f) 1, Rude Awakening (C Lowther, 14-1); 2, Trojan Hero (9-2 jt-fav); 3, Hannah's Usher (13-2). Broadway Melody 9-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. ¾l, 2l. C Fairhurst. Tote: £18.90; £5.10, £2.40, £1.70. DF: £161.40. Trio: £153.30. CSF: £79.71. Tricast: £437.12.

4.10 (7f) 1, U-No-Harry (A McCarthy, 11-1); 2, Green Bopper (33-1); 3, Scathebury (4-1). Pine Ridge Lad 7-4 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £9.90; £2.90, £8.40, £2.20. DF: £163.70. CSF: £308.60. Trio: £210.90.

4.40 (1m) 1, Reseed (Kimberley Hart, 9-1); 2, Batsman (7-4 fav); 3, Zorba (8-1). 10 ran. 3l, 3½l. F Watson. Tote: £21.40; £4.20, £1.10, £5.80. DF: £28.90. Trio: £65.80. CSF: £23.06. Tricast: £124.90.

Placepot: £242.50. Quadpot: £46.30.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.10), Hereford (2.00), Plumpton (1.50).
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.10), Sedgefield (2.00), Leicester (2.20).
WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10), Musselburgh (2.20), Lingfield Park (2.00).
THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.00), Sandown Park (1.50), Taunton (2.10).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Fakenham (2.00), Sandown Park (1.45).
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Newcastle (Sky, 1.30), Warwick (C4, 2.05), Windsor (2.25), Chepstow (BBC, 1.15).
Flat meetings in bold

RACELINE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
NEWBURY	101	201
MKT RASEN	102	202
AYR	103	203
CATTERICK	104	204
LINGFIELD	105	205
IRISH	161	261

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Pick up the phone PICK UP A £10 FREE BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

TOTE GOLD TROPHY

2 miles ½ furlong, H'cap Hurdle, Newbury 2.20pm, Live on BBC TV.

7/2	Graphic Equaliser	12/1	Nahrawali
5/1	Commanche Court	12/1	Sharpical
13/2	Kerawi	12/1	Tidjani
9/1	Mr Percy	16/1	Advocat
10/1	Bellator	16/1	Tibetan
11/1	Carlito Brigante	25/1	Native-Darrig
11/1	Shooting Light	40/1	Indefence

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 2.05pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner – no bet.

LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT

RING TODAY - BET TODAY
0800 44 40 40
(Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only)

*Free bet is a £10 Straight Forecast on the Newbury 2.20pm today. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

William HILL

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

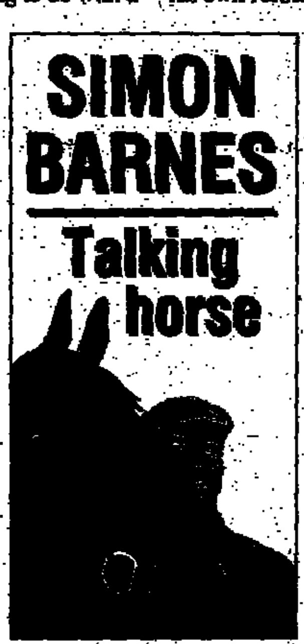
هكذا من الاصل

Trainer seeks to be lucky in love

Toby Balding may be older and winners may have become scarce lately, but his obsession with horses endures



Looking for a winner: Balding scans the morning gallops near his stables for signs of a horse to end his 182-day losing sequence over the jumps. Photograph: Hugh Routledge



I think it was Julian Barnes who said that *non-obsessive* love was like alcohol-free lager. No one has ever loved horses the safe side of obsession. If a wise and a measured love is indeed like alcohol-free lager, then love of horses must be compared to those dark, demonic bottles of falling-over juice brewed by Trappist monks.

Yes, something to do with a strange, secret and silent breed, something rather exotic and startlingly expensive, and something that causes you to lose your wits in a remarkably short space of time. "Expensive hobby," people sometimes tell me, when horses once again sneak themselves into the conversation. Hobby? Next thing, they'll be telling me that breathing oxygen is a hobby.

Cut, then, to Ascot races, and a big man talking of obsession and eating jellied eels. He always eats jellied eels; he always thinks about horses. Expenses: one portion jellied eels for Toby Balding, £3. "Training racehorses," he said. "It really is the most egotistical business."

He had just saddled up a huge chestnut, one almost big enough to be a hack for himself, and seen the animal tailed off. We talked, though not about slow chestnut horses, and talk was punctuated by his urgent and compulsive need to watch horse races. Not his own runners: he just likes, needs to watch horses racing. The point is that some horses run faster than others: what can be more important, more fascinating that that?

Obsessions can never be explained, still less obsessive loves. "What does he see in her?" people ask, as if the ruinous passion of a lifetime were a matter of logic. True, young trainers are obsessive for a logical reason: they have no alternative. They are eaten up with ambition and fear in equal measure, they are always in a terrible rush to establish themselves: to acquire a reputation and a stable of owners before their money and/or credibility runs out.

But Balding has been there, done that and been back to do it again, and still the obsession runs deep. In the office by 6.30, back there after evening stables. If he has a runner, he will be at the races to be with his owners. They expect it, he expects them to expect it. Training may be egotistical: it is also about the giving of self, and that lavishly, to horses and to owners. If Balding is indeed an egotist, he is the most generous-natured one I have met.

"I am older now," Balding said. "Softer." He is 61, but he is certainly not less obsessed. His idea of a nice day off, a pleasant and relaxing way of breaking the rhythm of stables and horses and going to the races, is to go to a point-to-point meeting and administer a caning to the book-makers.

Balding is old school, but not old hat. "We're sales people," he said, a notion at home in a leaner, financially oppressed world of modern racing. Balding woos his owners and makes much of them: he is not old-fashioned enough to tell an inquiring owner to go and ask the horse, if he is that interested. He has come to terms with the revolutionary fact of modern racing: that no one has either a right or a duty to own a racehorse.

In fact, I have the wild and wacky notion that he actually likes owners. Perhaps especially, he likes owners who own a leg here, or a fetlock there. "Racing belongs to everyone," he said. Fair enough: and racing certainly needs everyone like never before. For that matter, Balding needs good owners like never before.

The plain fact of the matter is that it is now just past 180 days since Toby Balding last trained a winner over jumps. It is a mere 113 since he last had one on the Flat. These are truly horrible numbers: numbers that would have ruined a debutant trainer by now. Everything in the horsey life is capricious, but racing tends to multiply the caprice of horses by a factor of ten. Because Balding has, in his time, won everything: two Champion Hurdles, a Gold Cup and two Grand Nationals, the first on Highland Wedding in 1969, the second 20 years later with Little Polveir.

There are those who believe — and who have expressed their belief in hard cash — that Balding is due to end this run of unending ghastliness today, when the eye-catching Bellator runs in the Tote Gold Trophy. If not — well, Balding will just have to take the disappointment in his stride. And he will certainly be able to do so: he has had rather more practice at that particular training skill than he would wish.

Ian Botham, when he was going through a terrible run some years back, wore a T-shirt that said: "Form is temporary. Class is permanent." Balding doesn't need to.

But he is a mellower, less urgent person these days. His obsession has shifted gear in him. He is a grandfather now, several times over, and that is always a large experience, one that prompts many people to review their lives. "It is so easy to get obsessed. And now I have grandchildren, I realise how little help I was with my own children." Unusually for a racing family, none of his three children initially followed him into the horsey business. Racing is very hot on bloodlines. His daughter, Serena, later took over his office management.

> **'It's easy to become obsessed. Now I have grandchildren, I realise how little help I was with my own children'**

Balding is from a deeply horsey background: his father was a polo player, Britain captain and all that, following the game and the horses and the jobs to the United States. Balding's earliest horsey triumph was a remarkable win-double, in which he marked a seven-goal player out of the game and managed to tip his father's own team patron, Billy Whitbread, off his horse, causing him to break his collarbone.

"I'm a stockman," Balding said. "It's what I was bred to be. All my antecedents looked after horses, polo ponies, hunters, point-to-pointers, racehorses. I was nine years old when I decided that racing was to be my life."

He read *The Sporting Life* in the classroom and then became a jockey, which was a tough call for a man of 6ft 3in. "Belsen could not have done a better job than the one I did on myself. I once did 11st 2lb, and had the biggest bet of my life in the race, too. And lost."

Balding says that, at school, he acquired the reputation of being hard-working but thick. He must have worked uncommonly hard to give such an impression. He is the sort of man who always has a great idea, a brilliant new scheme. His liveliness of mind might even have been a handicap, had it not been coupled with obsession.

As an older and softer — "is that really the right word?" — person, he finds his obsessions unchanged, their emphasis rather different. The wastage rate of horses distresses him: the ruthless practice of hammering horses on hard ground until they break down does not appeal to him. Could it be that the obsessive need to win has been a trifle blunted?

Obsessive love, that is a different matter entirely. To be with horses, to be where horses are running their fastest, doing their best. But it's time for another race. Time for another winner.

Sounds Like Fun can give backers reason to smile



NEWBURY

BBC1

1.15: Court Melody, notionally a thorough stayer, in reality does not get home over extreme distances and relished the drop to three miles at Sandown last week. Though he did well to win from 6lb out of the handicap there, Cool Dawn's below-par effort left him with little to beat — and a further 6lb rise now looks harsh. McGregor The Third and the progressive Brave Highlander could battle for the lead, setting things up for Hatcham Boy. His suspect jumping has stood up better on his two starts here than anywhere else, and he looks fairly treated.

1.45: A step up in class, faster ground and perhaps sheer exhaustion should bring an end to the industrious Kadastrof's winning spree, but the novice will help set a strong pace. Ask Tom is entitled to need this, after recent training problems, which might allow the old favourite, **Viking Flagship**, to avenge a head defeat at Sandown before Christmas. He was below par himself when subsequently winning at Wetherby, however, and it would be no surprise to see Celibate make a nuisance of himself in receipt of 7lb.

2.20: see above.

MARKET RASEN

CHANNEL 4

3.10: Swing West sets the standard here, having finished clear when chasing home Robbo in a decent race at Newcastle last time. One should not get too carried away with the subsequent win of his Lingfield victim, Teaatral, as he represents a stable that has only hit form since. The same is true of Torn Silk's yard, and this useful stayer on the Flat in Ireland should show a lot more than when not knocked about in the Kempton mud on his hurdling debut. Big improvement is also expected from Island Sanctuary, who needed the experience at Ludlow, but Broctune Line may need more of a test of stamina.

3.45: Sparkling Cone looks clearly the best horse here, but his best form is in the mud, and he is unlikely to represent much value, coming here after a fall. **Sounds Like Fun** ran well in defeat over an inadequate two miles at Ascot last time, and is better over this trip. He goes well right-handed. The trainer of Non Vintage does well at his local track, and this horse has some decent hurdles form; he is a difficult ride, however.

4.15: Some dubious animals here — most obviously the reluctant Pimberley Place, but Shining Light and Easthorpe do not always look co-operative, either. In Truth conjured the run of his life behind Speaker Weatherill over three miles at Doncaster last time, when 12lb out of the handicap. He is back off his proper mark here, but his win record does not inspire confidence. So it may be worth taking a chance that **Lance Armstrong** improves sufficiently for his reappearance — well beaten after drifting in the market — to resume last season's good progress. Sister Rosza offers consistency, but would ideally prefer more of a test.

4.45: These qualifiers for the Cheltenham final are notoriously difficult for punters on the day. Gysart paid tribute to Tompetoo's Ascot form during the week, but the handicapper did not need telling — and he does not look an ideal ride for a claimer, anyway. **Dana Point** has a solid, progressive record and may prove better off held up longer than when caught on the run-in by the in-form Let's Be Frank at Doncaster last time.

CHRIS MCGRATH

Split Second to arrive on time

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

BLUE CHEEK, the easy winner of Aintree's Foxhunters' Chase last season, makes his seasonal reappearance at the **Harkaway Club** fixture today.

Winning at Aintree guarantees Blue Cheek celebrity status, but his owner, octogenarian Jim Mahon, has made his mark in hunt racing too, notably as founder of the Owners and Riders' Association.

Aintree is again on Blue Cheek's itinerary, but first he tackles today's ladies' open with Teresa Spearing aboard. The Alison Dare-ridden Split Second is likely to spoil the comeback.

Men's champion, Julian Pritchard, rides Cruise A Hoop in the men's open. The nine-year-old, improved considerably since joining Nicky Sheppard's yard, attempts a sixth consecutive win this afternoon.

Rain is needed in the South, but the ground at the **East Cornwall** might be soft enough for Bet With Baker in the men's open, while the Welsh get their first fixture of the year at the **Vale Of Clettwr**.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: East Cornwall, Gt Trethew, 3m south of Liskeard (first race 12.00); Easton Harriers, Higham, 8m NE Colchester (12.00); Harkaway Club, Chaddesley Corbett, on Bromsgrove-Kidderminster road (11.30); Vale Of Clettwr, Erw Lon, 8m N Carmarthen (11.30). TOMORROW: Badsworth, Wetherby racecourse (11.00); College Valley & N Northumberland, Alnwick, 3m E town (12.30); Farmers Bloodhounds, Heythrop, 3m NE Chipping Norton (12.00); Mid Devon, Blk Forest Lodge, 6m SW Exeter (12.00); Mid Surrey Drag, Charing, 12m E Maidstone (12.30); South Dorset, Milborne St Andrew, (12.00); Tweseldown Club, Tweseldown, 3m W Aldershot (12.30)

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

1.35 Elusive Star. 2.10 Sousse. 2.40 Manileno. 3.15 Evangelica. 3.50 The Khoinoa. 4.20 Dr Bones. 4.50 Gray Pastel.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.35 LEVY BOARD MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,486: 2m) (15 runners)

1	6/1P	ELUSIVE STAR 30 (BF,D,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-7	G Lee
2	0-PP	ALLERBECK 4 J Goulding 6-11-0	L Cooper (7)
3	-0PP	BROOK HOUSE 4 B Bousfield 7-11-0	M Newton (7)
4	P00	DARIO'S GIRL 59 J Haynes 5-11-0	D Parker
5		GENTLE ANGEL W Storey 7-11-0	L O'Hara
6	PP-0	GUILE POINT 22 D Lamb 7-11-0	J Burke
7		KISSEL 169F S Kettlewell 6-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)
8	5060	MILL BEE 9 W Reed 5-11-0	Mr C Wilson
9	0	NICOLA'S PRINCESS 11 H Alexander 5-11-0	D Thomas (7)
10	0	PETITE BUSH 28 B Ellison 5-11-0	N Smith
11	3-	PHAR CLOSER 532 W Kemp 5-11-0	C McCormack (5)
12	6	RAINDEER QUEST 8F J Eyre 6-11-0	N Bentley
13		ALCALALI 126F M Hammond 4-10-4	N Horrocks (5)
14	0	ALU-LADY 7 M W Easterby 4-10-4	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
15	U555	MUSTANG SCALLY 16 J Mackie 4-10-4	L Wyer

11-8 Alcalali, 9-2 Elusive Star, 5-1 Raindeer Quest, 7-1 Mustang Scally, 10-1 Kissel, Phar Closer, 16-1 Alu-Lady, 20-1 others.

2.10 BRIDGE SELLING HURDLE (£2,094: 2m) (15)

1	-450	SOUSSE 9 (D,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-12	G Lee
2	00-8	POMME SECRET 60 (B,BF,S) M Pipe 5-11-10	J Evans
3	-55P	PRIDDY FAIR 15F (CD,B) D Barker 5-11-5	P Midgley (5)
4	-000	DARK MIDNIGHT 38 (B) D Lamb 8-11-3	J Burke
5	PRU0	FORBES 8 (B) J H Johnson 7-11-3	S Haworth (7)
6	403	LORD HASTIE 50 N Tinkler 10-11-3	L Wyer
7	06	ORIEL LAD 105 Miss K Milligan 5-11-3	D Parker
8	0P	PLAYMAKER 45 M Barnes 5-11-3	N Horrocks (5)
9	0030	SALINGER 8 (D,G,S) J Parkes 10-11-9	M Newton (7)
10		SHARVIC 633F G M Moore 5-11-3	N Hannity (7)
11	P-80	SHIP THE BUILDER 8 (B) C Grant 9-11-3	C McCormack (5)
12	P	ARCTIC FLORA 44 J Parkes 5-10-12	L O'Hara
13		CHANCANCOOK 43F J Eyre 5-10-12	N Bentley
14	P0	GEMOLLY 45 (V) R Barr 5-10-12	Michael Brennan (3)
15	5PP	JILLY BEVELED 38 B Ellison 5-10-12	N Smith

15-8 Pomme Secret, 3-1 Lord Hastie, 7-1 Sousse, Salinger, 8-1 Priddy Fair, 14-1 Chancancook, 16-1 Sharvic, Ship The Builder, 20-1 others.

2.40 ASKE HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,177: 2m) (8)

1	6550	PROFLUENT 7 (S) M Hammond 7-12-0	N Horrocks (5)
2	265U	TALATHATH 16 (B,D,F,G,S) J Cann 6-11-4	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
3	-361	BRAMBLES WAY 21 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-2	N Smith
4	2222	HOUSE OF DREAMS 50 (G) G M Moore 6-10-13	N Bentley
5	1221	COUNTRY ORCHID 96 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-11	G Lee
6	2171	MANILENO 99 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-10-9	J Evans
7	-416	GOSPEL SONG 14 (D,S) A Whillans 6-10-3	D Parker
8	513	BARNBURGH BOY 28 (D,S) T Easterby 4-10-0	L Wyer

6-4 Manileno, 7-2 Country Orchid, 7-1 House Of Dreams, 8-1 Brambles Way, Gospel Song, Barnburgh Boy, 14-1 Profluent, 25-1 Talathath.

3.15 RED ONION GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL (Handicap chase: £6,970: 3m 6f) (5)

1	51PP	EVANGELICA 28 (F,S) M Pipe 8-11-10	J Evans
2	3F55	MINELLA EXPRESS 11 (B,F,G,S) J H Johnson 9-10-9	D Parker
3	-3PP	RUSSIAN CASTLE 58 (F,G) J Wade 9-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)
4	3SP4	PINK GIN 22 (F,G,S) M Hammond 11-10-0	L Wyer
5	R332	D'ARBLAY STREET 22 (B,G,S) W Kemp 9-10-0	C McCormack (5)

2-1 D'Arblay Street, Evangelica, 4-1 Minella Express, Pink Gin, 10-1 Russian Castle.

3.50 IAN HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,010: 3m 1f 110yd) (12)

1	-634	POINT REYES 15 (S) J Curtis 5-11-10	K R O'Ryan (7)
2	P-10	THE KHOINOA 67 (S) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-4	C Wilson (7)
3	4005	CORALETTE 15 (B) S Brookshaw 8-11-4	Miss H Brookshaw (7)
4	/56-	ALNBROOK 344 A Whillans 7-11-2	B Gibson (7)
5	-P53	INYOUGOBLUE 29 H Alexander 6-11-1	T J Barry (7)
6	0-50	PEAK A BOO 50 D Whillans 7-10-11	X Renwick (7)
7	6/00	MR EGLANTINE 15 A Smith 6-10-7	G Markham (7)
8	3545	DERRING FLOSS 45 Miss J Wormall 8-10-6	Miss J Wormall (7)
9	6-55	TEEJAY'S FUTURE 68 Miss M Rowland 7-10-0	Miss S Wright (7)
10	0-50	ROYAL RANK 42 D Alder 8-10-0	DOUBTFUL
11	402P	COMMUNITY SERVICE 68 J Norton 7-10-0	P Faulkner (7)
12	PP/P	VALIANT VICAR 8 D Barker 11-10-0	Mrs F Needham (7)

2-1 Point Reyes, 7-2 The Khoinoa, 4-1 Coralette, 10-1 Inyougoblue, 12-1 Alnbrook, Derring Floss, 14-1 Teejay's Future, 20-1 others.

4.20 WHITBY NOVICES CHASE (£3,548: 2m) (6)

1	2223	NOBLE TOM 29 (BF,D,F,G) P Eccles 6-11-2	D Byrne
2	-F53	SMOLENSK 77 (D,F) J Berry 6-11-2	D Parker
3	3P-0	TRIONA'S HOPE 8 E Cane 9-11-2	Mr P Cosgrave (7)
4	3F26	WHITEGATES WILLIE 45 J H Johnson 6-11-2	C McCormack (5)
5	1461	DR BONES 11 (D,G,S) F Murphy 5-11-0	Mr D McPhail (7)
6	P-F	MUFFLED MIST 22 A Whillans 7-10-11	N Smith

4-5 Dr Bones, 7-2 Noble Tom, 4-1 Smolensk, 8-1 Whitegates Willie, 50-1 Triona's Hope, Muffled Mist.

4.50 BROUGH HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,996: 2m 3f) (8)

1	51FP	DAWN MISSION 8 (B,BF,F,G) T Easterby 6-11-12	L Wyer
2	5325	TIP IT IN 14 (CD,G,S) A Smith 9-11-7	N Horrocks (5)
3	F110	GRAY PASTEL 77 (F) M Pipe 4-11-5	J Evans
4	0-23	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 79 (F,G) J Goulding 10-11-2	L Cooper (7)
5	0222	HOBBS CHOICE 38 (B,BF,F) G M Moore 5-11-0	N Bentley
6	2336	SOLDIER MAK 49 J Mackie 5-10-12	E Husband (3)
7	03PP	WHATDIDYOUSAY 30 B Bousfield 10-10-3	C McCormack (5)
8	1-PP	TEMPTED 73 (F,G) J Haynes 10-10-1	D Parker

3-1 Gray Pastel, 7-2 Hobbs Choice, 9-2 Tip It In, 5-1 Dawn Mission, 11-2 Apollo's Daughter, 6-1 Soldier Mak, 25-1 Whatdidyousay, 33-1 Tempted.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CATTERICK: Trainers: T Easterby, 8 winners from 25 runners, 32.0%, Mrs M Reveley, 21 from 87, 24.1%, Mrs A Swinbank, 4 from 24, 16.7%, J Eyre, 3 from 20, 15.0%, W Storey, 4 from 31, 12.9%, G M Moore, 8 from 66, 12.1%. Jockeys: N Horrocks, 4 winners from 25 rides, 16.0%; M Moloney, 5 from 34, 14.7%; T Reed, 7 from 66, 10.6%; L Wyer, 6 from 60, 10.0%.

AYR: Trainers: Mrs J Storey, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%, A Whillans, 7 from 34, 20.6%; G Richards, 30 from 154, 19.5%, J J O'Neill, 21 from 110, 19.1%; Mrs J Goodfellow, 4 from 22, 18.2%. Jockeys: Mr C Storey, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; A Dobbin, 32 from 160, 20.0%; B Storey, 26 from 161, 16.1%; R McGrath, 6 from 39, 15.4%; S Taylor, 5 from 33, 15.2%.

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: D Loder, 21 winners from 52 runners, 40.4%; N Littmoden, 7 from 32, 21.9%, Lord Huntingdon, 39 from 205, 19.0%; M Johnston, 51 from 284, 18.0%; M Bell, 16 from 92, 17.4%. Jockeys: R Studholme, 6 winners from 23 rides, 26.1%; K Fallon, 15 from 60, 25.0%; P Dobbs, 5 from 23, 21.7%, Aimee Cook, 4 from 22, 18.2%, W Ryan, 26 from 168, 15.5%.

☐ Brian Harding is in danger of missing the Cheltenham Festival after receiving a suspected broken left collarbone in a fall from Tanseeq in the Bermans Handicap Hurdle at Bangor yesterday. Harding only returned to action in mid-December after 12 months on the sidelines because of head injuries sustained in a fall at Newcastle.

AYR

THUNDERER

1.50 Valedictory. 2.25 Miracle Man. 2.55 Warrlin. 3.30 Whispering Steel. 4.05 Monte Cresta. 4.35 Mr Knitwit. 5.05 Menshaar.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

1.50 MARTNAHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,458: 2m) (8 runners)

1	1	VALEDICTORY 46 (S) P Monteith 5-11-4	A Dobbin
2	0/F-	BOWLANDS COUNTRY 258P D Moffatt 7-10-12	D Bentley
3	0	DISTINCT 22 A Whillans 5-10-12	B Storey
4	033	DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 45 B Ellison 5-10-12	E Callaghan
5	324	MANFUL 11 (B,BF) Miss L Perratt 6-10-12	J Callaghan
6	35	SHINING EXAMPLE 11 J J O'Neill 6-10-12	R McGrath (3)
7	0SP1	HEART OF AVONDALE 24 (D,S) L Woods (Ire) 5-10-7	Mr C Bonner (3)
8	P0/P	MILLEMAY 45 J Goldie 8-10-7	S Taylor (3)

5-4 Valedictory, 11-4 Manful, 4-1 Doctor Bravious, 7-1 Shining Example, Heart Of Avondale, 20-1 Distinct, 25-1 Bowlands Country, 50-1 Millemay

2.25 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILLS NOVICES CHASE (£3,704: 2m 5f 110yd) (8)

1	-021	CASH FLOW 84 (G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-3	R McGrath (3)
2	P-51	PAPERISING 9 (D,G,S) G Richards 6-11-3	A Dobbin
3	0/1F	TITAN THAI 86 (F) N Mason 9-11-3	J Callaghan
4	U32U	COTTSTOWN BOY 11 Mrs Bradburne 7-10-12	Mr M Bradburne (5)
5	5-5U	HUNCHEON CHANCE 7 (G,S) I Ferguson (Ire) 8-10-12	S Taylor (3)
6	2/2-	MIRACLE MAN 399 (S) C Weedon 10-10-12	B Storey
7	512/	BHAVNAGAR 679 (F) B Ellison 7-10-8	E Callaghan
8	U5P-	LAKELAND EDITION 354P Mrs A Naughton 7-10-3	J Supple

13-8 Paperising, 9-4 Miracle Man, 9-2 Cash Flow, 7-1 Titan Thai, 8-1 Cottstown Boy, 10-1 Huncheon Chance, 16-1 Bhavnagar, 33-1 Lakeland Edition.

2.55 STRACHAN KERR JUVENILE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,746: 2m) (5)

1	546	EASTERN PROJECT 14 M Hammond 11-10	Mr C Bonner (3)
2	0256	WARRLIN 11 C Fairhurst 11-7	J Callaghan
3	6343	HOH EXPLORER 11 D Barker 11-3	D Bentley
4	2116	SILENT VALLEY 14 (V,D,G,S) Miss L Siddall 11-1	T Reed
5	2240	IBN MASIRAH 15 (B) Mrs M Reveley 10-12	A Dobbin

5-2 Ibn Masirah, 3-1 Eastern Project, Silent Valley, 4-1 Hoh Explorer, 7-1 Warrlin.

3.30 MASON ORGANISATION HANDICAP CHASE (£7,247: 3m 1f) (8)

1	D42F	MAJOR BELL 14 (C,D,F,G,S) A Whillans 10-12-0	E Callaghan
2	30-P	WHISPERING STEEL 50 (CD,G,S) G Richards 12-11-2	A Dobbin
3	2226	BEACHY HEAD 14 (G,S) J J O'Neill 10-11-1	R McGrath (3)
4	-212	CEILIDH BOY 46 (BF,C,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 12-10-10	B Storey
5	3-P5	CROWDED HOUSE 5 (V,S) B Ellison 10-10-0	S Taylor (3)
6	-414	JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 28 (CD,G,S) Mrs J Storey 11-10-0	Mr C Storey
7	2231	ASK ME LATER 5 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-0 (5ex)	Mr M Bradburne (5)
8	21/P	CARLEY LAD 21 (S) N Mason 10-10-0	J Callaghan

3-7 Major Bell, 7-2 Ceilidh Boy, Ask Me Later, 5-1 Judicious Captain, 11-2 Beachy Head, 10-1 Whispering Steel, 20-1 Carley Lad, 33-1 Crowded House.

4.05 LOVE IS IN THE AYR NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,374: 2m 6f) (8)

1	041	MONTE CRESTA 22 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-13	Mr M Bradburne (5)
2	0-0	BLAKE'S DEMON 9 G Richards 6-10-12	A Dobbin
3	6	LEET BRIG 22 B Mactaggart 7-10-12	B Storey
4	1-02	MERRY MASQUERADE 14 (S) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-12	T Reed
5	/000	MIDDLE BAY 9 D Moffatt 7-10-12	D Bentley
6		MR WALT J Jefferson 5-10-12	E Callaghan
7	50-6	SMIDDY LAD 14 C Fairhurst 7-10-12	J Callaghan
8		AUNTY NESSIE J Goldie 6-10-7	R McGrath (3)

6-4 Merry Masquerade, 15-8 Monte Cresta, 5-1 Smiddy Lad, 12-1 Blake's Demon, Mr Walt, 14-1 Leet Brig, 25-1 Middle Bay, 33-1 Aunty Nessie.

4.35 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILLS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,684: 2m 4f) (3)

1	4141	MONTRAVE 14 (CD,F,G,S) J Goldie 9-11-10	S Taylor (3)
2	2-32	MR KNITWIT 14 (CD,G,S) P Monteith 11-11-4	A Dobbin
3	3F5P	SOLSGIRTH 9 (CD,G,S) J Barclay 7-10-0	B Storey

10-11 Mr Knitwit, 6-5 Montrave, 13-2 Solsgirth.

5.05 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,921: 2m 4f) (9)

1	-210	PALACEGATE KING 30 (S) A Whillans 9-12-0	Mr M Bradburne (5)
2	/81-	LEGIBLE 387 (G,S) I Ferguson (Ire) 10-11-6	J Supple
3	21-P	BEN CRUACHAN 28 (G,S) J Jefferson 8-11-5	E Callaghan
4	2-11	TOSHIBA TALK 60 (F,S) B Ellison 6-11-3	A Dobbin
5	1-4U	FALLELSEFAILS 21 (D,F,G,S) L Lungo 10-11-0	C Dunne (7)
6	4P23	CATHERINE'S CHOICE 21 M Hammond 5-10-6	Mr C Bonner (3)
7	-UFF	NICHOLAS PLANT 14 (CD,F,S) J Goldie 9-10-4	S Taylor (3)
8	U333	COMMON SOUND 9 (S) J Barclay 7-10-1	B Storey
9	3544	MENSHAAR 21 (B,S) L Lungo 6-10-0	W Dowling (7)

3-1 Toshiba Talk, 5-1 Palacegate King, Catherine's Choice, 7-1 Nicholas Plant, Common Sound, 8-1 Legible, Fallelsefails, Menshaar, 20-1 Ben Cruachan.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.45 Multi Franchise. 2.15 Axeman. 2.45 Heavenly Abstone. 3.20 Pegasus Bay. 3.55 Spirit Of Love. 4.25 Mysticism. 4.55 Harlequin Walk.

GOING: SLOW SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.45 YOUNG LOVE SELLING STAKES (Div I: £1,472: 1m) (9 runners)

1	4-44	MULTI FRANCHISE 23 (C,D,F) R Flower 5-9-5	Dane O'Neill 7
2	-000	EASTLEIGH 15 (CD,S) R Hollinshead 9-8-13	K Fallon 4
3	00-5	KI CHI SAGA 16 (CD) G L Moore 6-8-13	S Whitworth 3
4	4345	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 9 (C) S Dow 5-8-13	P Doe (7) 9
5	-586	LIFT BOY 9 (C,F,G) G L Moore 9-8-13	Candy Morris 8
6	6044	RIVERS MAGIC 18 (S) J Bridger 5-8-13	G Bardwell 6
7	0-05	SOAKING 23 (B,CD,F) M Usher 8-8-13	D R McCabe 5
8	300-	PAPITA 18J (B,F) N Lampard 4-8-8	P Dobbs (7) 1
9		PENNY APPEAL 15J J Mullins 4-8-8	S Righton (7) 2

9-4 Lancashire Legend, 5-1 Multi Franchise, Lift Boy, 11-2 Eastleigh, 8-1 Soaking, 10-1 Ki Chi Saga, Rivers Magic, 12-1 others.

2.15 ST VALENTINES APPRENTICES HANDICAP (£2,264: 7f) (11)

1	00-1	KINGS HARMONY 9 (CD,F) B Pearce 5-10-1	R Studholme (3) 4
2	6-21	ITALIAN SYMPHONY 3 (V,CD) P Evans 4-9-13	A McCarthy (3) 9
3	0814	BLUE FLYER 7 (B,CD,F) R Ingram 5-9-9	P Doe (3) 8
4	2213	CASTLE ASHBY JACK 7 (CD) P Howling 4-9-3	R Winston (3) 3
5	400-	PERSEVERE 107 Lord Huntingdon 4-9-0	Aimee Cook 1
6	26-2	CONCER ARALL 10 (BF) S C Williams 4-8-5	D Williams (5) 11
7	-514	STATISTICIAN 5 (E,C,D,F) John Berry 6-8-3	G Faulkner 10
8	-032	AXEMAN 7 (F) N Littmoden 6-8-1	A Nicholls (5) 2
9	00-0	SHERATON GIRL 38 (V,D) N Littmoden 4-8-0	S Righton (5) 5
10	80-0	DARK MENACE 39 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 6-7-10	S Carson (3) 6
11	0-45	LITTLE PILGRIM 30 T Jones 5-7-10	A Polli 7

9-2 Concer Arall, 11-2 Kings Harmony, 6-1 Statistician, 13-2 Italian Symphony, 7-1 Axeman, 8-1 Blue Flyer, Castle Ashby Jack, Persevere, 16-1 others

2.45 CUPID CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,749: 7f) (7)

1	20-5	HEAVENLY ABSTONE 10 (V,F,S) P Evans 9-0	A McCarthy (5) 3
2	-342	COMEOUTOFTHEFOG 14 D Ffrench Davis 8-8	R Studholme (7) 1
3		LADY JAZZ T Naughton 8-8	R Ffrench 2
4	5-55	CORSECAN 14 S Dow 8-7	W Ryan 6
5	00-2	SHARP STEEL 9 G L Moore 8-6	C Rutter 4
6	0-	SYLPHIDE 185 M Muggeridge 8-1	M Henry 7
7	0-56	FIRST IDEA 9 S Dow 7-13	P Doe (7) 5

5-2 Heavenly Abstone, 11-4 Comeoutofthefog, 7-2 Sharp Steel, 6-1 Corsecan, 7-1 First Idea, 12-1 Lady Jazz, 25-1 Sylphide

3.20 YOUNG LOVE SELLING STAKES (Div II: £1,464: 1m) (9)

1	0015	HAWAII STORM 14 (CD,S) D Ffrench Davis 10-9-5	Dale Gibson 1
2	15-6	PEGASUS BAY 11 (C,F) D Cantillon 7-9-5	J Quinn 8
3	-654	INVOCATION 11 (CD,F) G L Moore 11-8-13	A Clark 7
4	060-	KOMODO 215 J Long 6-8-13	Leesa Long 4
5	000-	MISTRAL LORD 16J M Muggeridge 4-8-13	A McCarthy (5) 9
6	006/	OAKEN WOOD 65J N Callaghan 4-8-13	D Harrison 2
7	5-45	STAR TURN 24 (BF) M Bell 4-8-13	M Fenton 6
8	23-4	WITHOUT FRIENDS 35 (F,G,S) J Hitch-Heyes 4-8-13	R Ffrench 5
9	0-00	EWAR SUNRISE 12 (G) F C-Brown 5-8-8	Dane O'Neill 3

5-2 Pegasus Bay, 7-2 Star Turn, 4-1 Invocation, 9-2 Hawaii Storm, 6-1 Without Friends, 20-1 Komodo, Mistral Lord, 25-1 others.

3.55 JACK & GILL COLE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,404: 1m 2f) (5)

1	00-1	SPIRIT OF LOVE 36 M Johnston 9-7	J Fanning 1
2	00-1	FRANKIE FERRARI 7 (V,CD) D Loder 9-5	K Fallon 2
3	013-	NIGHT VIGIL 88 (BF,C) B Hills 9-4	M Hills 4
4	012-	OPERATIC 197 P Evans 8-5	A McCarthy (5) 5
5	40-0	LITTLE EMILY 25 C Brittain 8-0	R Ffrench 3

4-5 Frankie Ferrari, 3-1 Night Vigil, 5-1 Spirit Of Love, 10-1 others.

4.25 DEMPSTERS DIARY MAIDEN STAKES (£3,420: 5f) (7)

1	-440	LOGIE PERT LAD 16 J Bridger 6-9-10	A Daly (3) 7
2	/50-	ROYALE FINALE 298 (B) R Marvin 4-9-10	T G McLaughlin 6
3		DURST Lord Huntingdon 4-9-5	W Ryan 2
4		ITHADTOBEYOU P Cole 3-8-10	C Rutter 4
5	460-	SECOND SUN 155 J Bridger 3-8-10	G Bardwell 3
6	460-	MYSTICISM 119 C Brittain 3-8-5	M Henry 1
7	52-2	PHANTOM RING 28 (BF) A Bailey 3-8-5	R Ffrench 5

2-1 Mysticism, 9-4 Ithadtobeyou, 3-1 Durst, 5-1 Phantom Ring, 25-1 others

4.55 SWEETHEART HANDICAP (£3,339: 1m 4f) (6)

1	-523	REHAAB 16 (V,C,F) Miss B Sanders 5-9-12	A Clark 1
2	0-31	HARLEQUIN WALK 21 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 7-9-3	J Quinn 2
3	5-42	SHANGHAI-LIL 23 (BF,C) M Fetherston-Godley 6-9-6	F Norton 4
4	50-0	CERTAIN SURPRISE 11 (B) M Madgwick 4-8-11	P Doe (7) 5
5	30-2	KIKA 7 (D,G) K Burke 5-8-8	Dane O'Neill 6
6	-236	RASPBERRY SAUCE 11 C Cyzer 4-8-4	R Ffrench 3

2-1 Harlequin Walk, 5-2 Rehaab, 7-2 Shanghai Lil, 6-1 Raspberry Sauce, 8-1 Kika, 25-1 Certain Surprise



AC

AC Cobra LWT, (90G), 700 miles, £52,000. In a stunning colour combination. Graypaul 01509 232233.

AC Cobra LWT, (90G), 700 miles, £52,000. In a stunning colour combination. Graypaul 01509 232233.

MOTORS

VEHICLE LIFTS

Reconditioned 2 and 4 post ramps from £800 + V.A.T. New ramps available from £1,950 + V.A.T. Garage equipment bought for cash.

Engineering Garage Services. For sales and service telephone 01442 863938 or 0973 222898

ALFA ROMEO

164 3.0 24V Super Lusso Auto 96N 1 own 40K FSH All extras Stunning £12,995 Velocitas 0181 2750630/ 0956 287447

GTV 2.0TS Lusso Oct '97, 2,100 mls, red, 2SE, red/cass, £21,000. Perfect. 0181 954 7416 (H)/0171 218 6786 (W).

SPIDER 2.0, Silver, power hood, leather seats, 2000 mls. 1997 R reg, excellent condition. £24,000. Tel: 01202 387234.

SPIDER 1996 Lusso. Silver, LHD, air con, cd, leather seats, £19,500. 01732 834154

Alfa Romeo

145

146

155

164

GTV

SPIDER

The heart of Alfa Romeo in the heart of London

Call FREE on 0800 456 800

ASTON MARTIN

DB7 Auto (96P) BRG Metallic, parchment piped green, CD stack, 8,000 miles. £69,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

DB7 auto (96P) BRG Metallic, parchment piped green, CD stack, 8,000 miles. £69,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

LAGONDA 1981, Maroon/cream interior, excellent condition. £13,950. 01656 725058.

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Ingram Audi

R A8 4.2 quattro
N A8 2.8 Auto
R A3 T-Sport
M S2 Estate
M RS2

01292 269522

Rybridge Audi

AUDI APPROVED

97R Audi A3 1.8 T.Sport, Ochre Metallic, Black Lthr Int, FC Arm Rest, ES, PAS, ABS, Central Locking, 3 Year Warranty £20,495

97R Audi A3 1.8 Sport, Aluminium Silver, Onyx Lthr Int, ES, PAS, ABS, Central Locking, E/Windows, Twin Airbags, BOSE Sound System, 6 Stack CD Autochanger, FSH, 3 year warranty £19,995

97P Audi A4 2.6 SE 4dr, Aluminium Silver, Aqua Velour Int, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Electric Windows & Mirrors £20,995

96P Audi A6 2.5 TDi SE 4dr (140 bhp), Aluminium Silver, Anthracite Lthr Int, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Alloys, FSH, 1 Owner £22,495

96P Audi A4 1.9 TDi 4dr (90 bhp), Kingfisher Blue, Anthracite Int, Comp Alloys, R/Spoiler, ES, PAS, ABS, FSH £16,995

95N Audi Cabriolet 2.0, Cricket Green, Anthracite Half Lthr Int, Power Hood, Alloys, Electric Windows & Mirrors, PAS, ABS, Radio Cassette with 10 Stack CD, 15,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH £19,995

95N Audi A4 1.8 T-Sport, 4dr, Aluminium Silver, Anthracite Jacquard Graphic Interior, ES, ABS, PAS, Electric Windows & Mirrors £17,995

Friars Terrace, Stafford Staffordshire ST 17 4AU.
Tel: 01785 223232
Out of hours: 0966 112731

AUDI

80 TDI auto est, 94, BSR and wind, carefully driven from new. £10,250. 01403 791017

A4 2.8 Avant 97P Azurite Blue / ecru Leather, Roof Rails, PAS, Walnut Trim, Sports St Wheel, Sports Suspension, Competition Alloys, Superb! 9,000 miles, £25,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

CABRIOLET 2.6, M reg, Kingfisher blue, CD, 48k, immaculate condition, FASH. £19,750. 01788 565176 / 01327 703841 work.

RS2 Avant 94M Polar Silver/Black Leather, Stunning, 47,000 miles £8,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

AUDI

RS2 315 BHP, A/C, Laguna green, excellent condition, 46,000 miles, FSH. £49,000. 01787 475752/01245 262923.

AUDI WANTED

Franklin

We require the very best high specification Audis. Please telephone Simon Fennell for an enthusiastic response.

01483 272 451 or 0836 52 55 52

A Sytner Company

BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS

Hughenden

BMW 840CIA 97P
Oxford Green/Light Silver Grey Lthr, Bolted X-Spoke Alloys, Elec Steering Column, 2,400 miles £45,995

Tel: 01494 552682 or 0966 157580

840 Ci Auto 95N
Bright Red, Black Leather, Sports Seats, M-Tech Sports Suspension, Bolted X-Spoke Alloys, Cruise Control, Elec Rear Window Blind, 18,000 miles £36,950

Sytner
(0114) 275 5077

BMW

318i SE, 97 R, 8k miles, many extras inc, full colour coding, ten stack Sony cd, ac, double spoke alloys, top BMW remote alarm. £18,950ovno. Tel: Mark 0589 006628

323i coupe, '96 N, 11,000 mls, Montreal blue, alloys, electric pack. Unmarked. £21,000. David Gibbs 0171 976 8544 (W) or 0181 668 8776 (H).

318i SE, 95M, Moreno Grn, 30K, FSH, CD, Alm/immob, immac. £13,995. Tel: 01923 469659.

325i Touring, 90H, Red, VGC, high spec, FBMWSH, 92K, £6,450. Tel: 01959 565836.

AUDI

IVER VILLAGE CARS

Quality Audi Specialists

94 (M) S2 Estate Panther Black, air/con, lthr, alloys, esr	£22,995
94 (M) S6 Estate Panther Black, 6spd, climate, esr	£18,995
95 (N) A6 2.8 quattro Auto Quartz Grey, lthr, climate, alloys	£17,995
92 (K) S2 Coupe Indigo Blue, aircon, lthr	£17,995
96 (N) A6 2.6SE Estate Auto Ruby Red, acc, lthr	£16,995
95 (N) Coupe 2.6 Auto Ruby Red, aircon, esr	£16,995
95 (N) A4 T Sport Pearl Blue, esr, alloys, e/w	£16,995
95 (N) Coupe 2.6E Amazon, half lthr	£15,995
95 (M) A6 2.6 SE Auto Quartz Grey, climate	£15,995
95 (N) Coupe 2.6E Ruby Red, esr, half lthr, alloys	£14,995
96 (N) A4 TDI SE Auto Emerald, acc, alloys	£14,995
91 (J) S2 Coupe Blue Pearl, aircon, esr	£13,995
95 (M) Coupe 2.6E Ragusa red, lthr, aircon	£13,995
95 (M) Coupe 2.6E Amythist, esr, alloys	£13,995
94 (M) A6 2.5 TDI Silver, alloys, computer, esr	£13,995
95 (M) A4 2.6 Emerald, alloys, esr	£12,995
93 (K) Coupe 2.6E Auto Emerald, alloys	£12,995
93 (L) 94 Model Coupe 2.6E Auto Laser Red, alloys, stereo	£12,995
93 (K) 100 2.6E Auto Estate Silver, aircon, esr	£9,995
91 (J) Coupe 2.3 20V Black met, esr	£8,995
86 (C) UR quattro Red, lthr, s/r	£5,995
90 (G) 90 20V Cayenne Pearl, alloys, esr, e/w	£3,995

IVER, BUCKS.
TEL.01753 650909/FAX.01753 651019

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

FORD Explorer, 1997, as new, all extras, part exchange. £21,500. Tel: 01702 348888

JEEP Cherokee 4.0 ltd SE. Blue/gold badging/tan hide. Late 94/private plates. 20k mls, 2 owners. Immac, FSH. New tyres, new service. Fully loaded—+—. CD. Private London sale. £15,750. 0374 679149.

RANGE ROVER DSE 2.5, Green, May 1996 N, clean leather interior with grey piping, A/C, electric sun roof, FSH, excellent condition, one owner. 32,000 miles. £28,500 ono. 01949 20786 / 0385 307033.

SHOGUN 3.0 V6 Auto, SWB, R reg. Walnut trim, BMW Grey Lthr, AC, Alarm, Met Silver. Extras. 8500mls. £23,500. 01788 579696/01788 823580

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo K reg. LHD, silver, 35,000 mls, FSH, excellent condition, 1 owner £15,000 ONO. 0171 738 2009.

GRAND Cherokee Ltd, 97R, Auto, Leather, Air Con, Full Spec. 6000 mls, FSH. £26,950. Tel: 01777 838067/0421 779980

BMW

320i COUPE 94L, Boston grn, esr, a/w, a/bag, alloys, spoiler, M52 immob. New CD/radio. Immac. 79K miles, FBMWSH. £13,995. Mob: 0850 325729 (Basildon).

328i/a/4 SE, July 97, Boston Green, beige leather interior, auto, air con, cd/radio, 4,800m. £24,250. Tel: 01372 465445

325i coupe ('92 K), 48,000 mls, calypso red/grey leather, air con, computer, ESR, etc. FBMWSH. Very carefully used by enthusiast owner. £14,750. 01548 810500 Devon.

328 Coupe spprt, '95 M, auto, Mauritius blue with Blk lthr sports seats, eqd with racing dynamics body styling, susp and 18" TSW wheels, B/R, A/C, CD + alm. FSH. Manufacturers wrt. 1st class cond. £20,995. 01582 424748/0498 935612.

328 Coupe 95N. Manual, Boston green. Sports seats, s/roof, remote lock, alm, FBMWSH, exc cond. £19,995. 01844 339000 day, 0468 910202 eves.

328i SPORT Coupe, 97P, 9,600 miles, Black/ black lthr. Lux pack, A/c, esr, ctr arm rest, computer. Sony 10CD, rear spoiler. £29,300. Tel: 01983 740292.

528i auto SE, 1996 P, cosmo black met/sand lthr, 11K mls, spoke alloys, park distance control, CD, SE. £31,995. Immac. 0151 729 0460. (eves)

530i grey, March 1995, 41,200 mls, FSH, air con, lthr seats. £16,750. 01775 630208.

540i 1993K, Diamond Black, Quilted Grey lthr, 80K, FBMWSH, £13,250. Tel: 0152 7853833/ 0370 396877.

740i Auto, M reg, new shape, Ascot Gn, 76K, FSH, 1 owner. £23,995. Tel: 01384 236291.

840 CSi auto, 94M, blue met, grey leather, s/r, air, computer, cd, alarm, FBMWSH, mint, 40k mls. £31,750. 0161 794 2238

BMW Imports. Get your new BMW direct from Germany. Substantial savings. RHD/LHD 01594 827918

M3 AC Schnitzer October 97R, Techno mega spec. Only £39,995. Tel: 01754763352w, 01754768860

M3 EVO CONVERTIBLE 96(N), Estoril blue, Black leather, climate, hard top, CD, FSH. £37,999 ono. 01344 872500 (day) 01344 627186 (eve).

M3 - 1989 White. Standard spec plus roof. 9,000 miles only. Offers £17,000 minimum. Tel: 01786 840101.

JEEP AUTHORISED

Jeep — Obstacles overcome... over the phone!

97R Viper GTS, Mat Blue, Agate Lthr, A/C, Stunning Looks/Performance	1T £P.O.A.
97P Grand Cherokee 5.2lt (LHD) AUTO, Black, Agate Lthr, Climate	62kilo £23,000
96N Grand Cherokee 4.0lt LTD AUTO, Black, Agate Lthr, Climate	15T £24,000
96N Grand Cherokee 4.0lt LTD AUTO, Dark Ivs, Agate Lthr, Climate	25T £23,500
97R Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3lt LE AUTO, Light Iris, Grey Lthr, PDC, A/C	6T £24,500
97R Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3lt LE AUTO, White, Grey Lthr, A/C	6T £23,500
97P Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3lt LE AUTO, Deep Amethyst, Grey Lthr, A/C	10T £23,850
97P Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3lt LE AUTO, Light Iris, Grey Cloth, A/C	15T £23,000
97P Chrysler Voyager 3.3lt LE AUTO, Black, Grey Lthr, A/C	16T £22,850
97P Chrysler Voyager 2.0lt SE MAN, Deep Amethyst, Grey Cloth, A/C	5T £16,850
97P Wrangler 4.0lt Sahara MAN, Moss Green, Trail Cloth	7T £15,850

SANDRIDGE NATIONWIDE

Open 7 days Sun 11-4pm 01926 451 452 A SYTNER COMPANY Evening 0976 982142

JEEP

WANTED Grand Cherokee with low mileage 01452 372100.

JEEP

CHEROKEE 4.0 Ltd, auto, Blue, R reg. Below 3,000 miles, £21,250. Tel: 01428 724641

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

THE BEST 4x4xPHONE

97R 4.6 HSE, Oxford Blue / L.Stone Lthr, 18" Mondial Alloys	3T £43,000
96P 4.6 HSE, Epsom Green / L.Stone Leather	26T £38,850
96N 4.6 HSE, Epsom Green / Granite Leather	17T £33,850
97R 4.0 SE A, Oxford Blue / L.Stone Lthr, C/C Bumpers	6T £38,500
96P 4.0 SE A, Biarritz Blue / Granite Lthr, ESR, HSE Alloys	11T £34,850
97R 2.5 DSE A, Oxford Blue / L.Stone Lthr, 18" Mondial Alloys	9T £36,850
97R 2.5 DSE A, Epsom Green / Light Stone Leather	3T £37,850
97P 2.5 DSE A, Oxford Blue / Granite Leather, ESR	35T £32,500
96N 2.5 DSE A, Epsom Green / Granite Lthr, ESR, E/Seats	22T £32,500
95N 2.5 DSE, Biarritz Blue / Granite Lthr, 18" Triple Sport Alloys	35T £28,500

Hallamshire
0114 276 5655

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY TDI ES, 1997 R, blue green, grey leather interior, total ES spec, 5,000 miles, mint condition. £24,500ovno. Tel: 0115 9831287 or 0976 221291

DISCOVERY 3.9, V8I, ES, Auto, Nov 94M, Avalon Blue. Full spec. A/con, lthr, CD, 7 sts. Bike rack, FLRSH. 65K. £15,250. Tel: 01747 830280/ 0378 322230.

DISCOVERY TDI June '92, 50,000 miles, Caragunda green, immaculately maintained, FSH. £9,000ono. Tel: 0171 224 8270

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

LANDROVER DISCOVERY 1998

Save £££

Discovery TDi GS/ XS/ ES
Manual & Automatic
All Supplied With Manufacturers Warranty
GS Model Loaded With Extras
Call Now For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

DISCOVERY V8i S Manual, 3.9 Petrol Metallic red. Alloys. ABS. CD. 7 Seats. FSH. Must Sell. £11,795. 0589 813059. (T)

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE '97 P, Oxford blue/ granite lthr, full spec + wedge bars/spots, ski rack. Superb. Only 9,000 mls. £38,950. Tel: (01628) 851266/789226.

4.6HSE M reg 1994, Niagra Grey, Granite Grey hide, immaculate, 25,000 miles, 18" alloys, tow bar, £28,995. 0802 412003

4.0 SE auto, '97 P, Niagra black, Magnolia leather, HSE alloys, FSH, 28,000 miles. £33,500. 01621 817379/01206 852828.

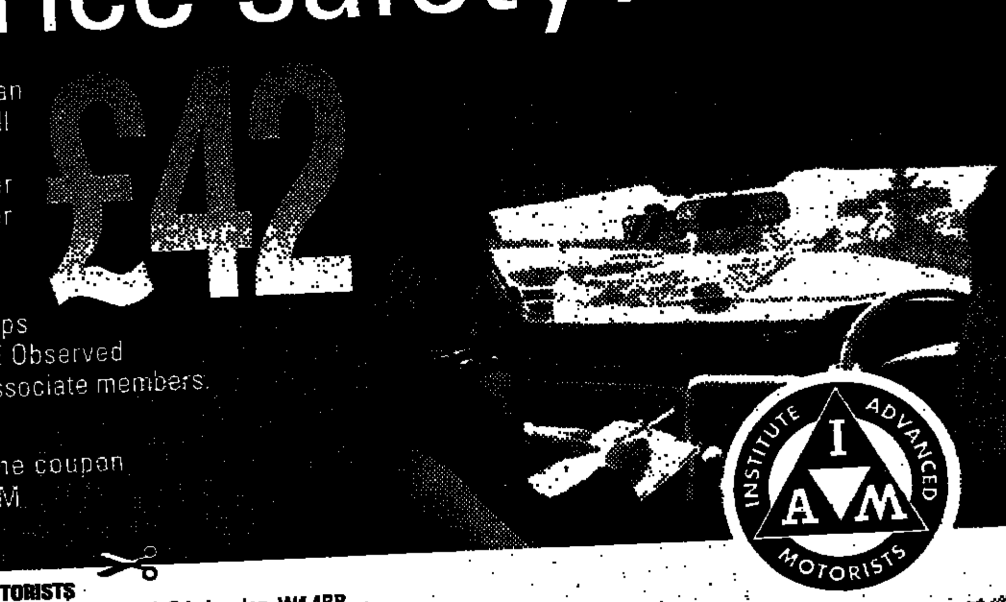
4.6 HSE, 96N, 36k mls, HSE, Rolls Met, immaculate condition. £29,750. 01745 815907

SE Diesel June 1997 5,000 miles, FSH, Slate Metallic /Leather, Air conditioning etc. Tremendous saving on new £38,500 01704 546666/0831 177706 T

VOGUE LSE 4.2, 1992, 61K mls, Metallic green, Lthr int, CD, immac £15,250 0171 2353777

DRIVING TUITION

What price safety?



Did you know that you can become an advanced driver for just £42? You will benefit from greater skill, safety and confidence on the roads, with lower insurance costs and the many other advantages of IAM membership.

Advanced driving guidance is also available from over 200 Local Groups throughout the UK which offer FREE Observed runs for drivers who join as Group associate members. Can you really afford not to do it?

For further information complete the coupon and return Freepost or visit the IAM Web Site: www.iam.org.uk

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Reg. Charity No. 249002

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS
Freepost, Licence No. SW1965, 359 Chiswick High Rd., London, W4 4BR.
Tel: 0181-994 4403 (24hr Answering) Fax: 0181-994 9249

Name ____________

Address ____________

Post Code ____ POST TODAY NO STAMP NEEDED

THE TIMES 1-98

BMW

Z3 2.8, R reg, 1997, Arctic Silver, Black lthr int, Z star alloys, 1.3K, £31,000. Tel: M Rashdi, 0171 3795995 (Day) 01727 765264 (Eves).

Z3 Brand New. Ready to be Registered. £46,500. Tel: 0973 226309

Z3 2.8 auto, un-reg, Grn/Beige hood, all extras, £33,500. Tel: 01703 554509.

Z3 2.8 1998, 52mls, Met Green, Contrasting Green Lthr etc. £30,500 ono. 01977 798610

Z3M, May delivery to your own specification. Tel: 0831 547439. Private Sale

Z3 2.8 1998, Dark green/Beige interior, A/C, Delivery mileage. £30,500. Tel: 01977 683267.

Z3 Motorsport UK dealer supplied, del. 2/3 wks. Estoril blue, fully loaded, every extra. Offers above list. 0831 417050.

BMW M3 EVOLUTION CONVERTIBLE
May 1997 registered. Under 4,000 miles. Arctic Silver metallic, Black leather interior with Walnut trim. Hardtop and wind deflector included. Alpine 10 speaker system. Alarm & Tracker System. Full spec, mint condition. Call
0171 723 1931
and leave a message

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

BMW 1998 U.K Specifications
Tremendous Savings On Z3 3 Series Coupe/ Cabriolet
5 Series Saloon/ Touring
Supplied With Manufacturers Warranty. Why Pay More?
Please Call For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

KINSEY JONES

98R M3 Coupe Evo
Macon/silver leather, air con, sport seats, alloys, clair + much more, 3,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner £41,995

0161-761 2221
Open all weekend

740i
1997 (P), Arctic silver/natural hide, 4.4 litre engine, 18" multispoke alloys, GSM car phone & TV monitor, top HiFi, PDC, multi function SW, comfort seats htd with memory, ESC, cruise, ASC+T, rain sensor. 16,000 mls
£41,500.
01843 868937 or 0468 486301
No dealers or canvassers

BMW WANTED

HIGH Mileage BMW's Wanted. We Collect, Cash Waiting. 01227 277567, 0860 541639 T

M3 Cabriolet wanted with good specification and low mileage. Please call Jeremy Mallett 01949 861289.

WANTED Wanted, 850 840 750 M3 M5 M6 etc, any mileage! 01628 660418 / 0831 123911

Sytner

We require the very best high specification, low mileage BMWs and Alpines. Please telephone Adrian Hill for an enthusiastic response.
01206 231 540
or 0385 737 969

WE BUY QUALITY HIGH SPEC BMW
WITH FULL SERVICE HISTORY
ANYWHERE
PLEASE PHONE GARY WILLS
Milcars Group 0831 722227 (7 DAYS)

CITROËN

XANTIA Dimension, N reg, Met Silver, 45k, EW, ESR, £8750ono. 01932 341000

CLASSIC CARS

E-TYPE CENTRE 50 E-Types always in Stock, Sensibly Priced, Buying or Selling. Tel for info pack: 01827 873247.

MERCEDES 280SLC 1980, LHD, Rare opp, low mileage, immac. Inspection welcome. 01273 604462/563193. £7500.

CLASSIC CARS WANTED

CORRADO VR6 95M, 36k, Blue, full grey leather interior. £16,750. 01254 826719.

CONTRACT HIRE

NEW MODEL LAUNCH OFFERS
TOYOTA AVENSIS/FREELANDER
FREE METALLIC PAINT

LIMITED COMPANIES & SELF EMPLOYED ONLY

Take advantage of our opening lease rates on New Model Toyotas and Landrover Freelanders

Full Maintenance Provided on the Following

Toyota Avensis 1.6S/2.0TDS, 2yrs ....£287.25 pm
Toyota Avensis 1.8GS (Air Con) 2yrs ....£298.77 pm
Toyota Avensis 2.0TDS Estate, 2yrs .....£293.14 pm

Freelander Station Wagon 1.8i, 2yrs ....£345.48 pm
Freelander Station Wagon 1.8Di, 2yrs £348.51 pm
Freelander Station Wagon 1.8XEi, 2yrs £381.00 pm

VERY LIMITED OFFER ON THE FOLLOWING
(P) Rover 618Si Auto/Manual 2 yrs ..£210.00 pm
Mostly metallic paint - Under 12,000 Delivery miles - Non-Maintained lease - 12 months Warranty included

Talk to Paul Jackson or Jo Ferguson
ALL ELECTRIC GARAGES GROUP PLC
Fleet & Contract Management Division
HIGH STREET, HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM B17 0EB
Telephone: 0121 427 5252
Facsimile: 0121 427 4881
Sat/Sun Tel: 01543 492694

All Electric are Authorised Main Dealers for:
MG, ROVER, PEUGEOT, HYUNDAI, JEEP, CHRYSLER, DAIHATSU, SUZUKI, MAZDA, SKODA
Delivered Nationwide

CONTRACT HIRE

AMAZING OFFERS FOR BUSINESS USERS

C.Hire - Lease - HP

	P.Mth
New BMW 318iS Coupe a/c	286.95
New BMW 328i Coupe a/c	344.80
New BMW 520iSE Auto	429.79
New Mercedes E240V6 Auto	382.93
New Mercedes E240V6 Auto	387.88
New Ford Explorer 4.0 Auto	305.09
New Renault Megane Sport Coupe	173.92
New Daewoo 2.5V6 CD 4dr	289.55

HTTP://www.AMT-London.CO.UK

AMT 0171 2224355 or 0113 2539737
Fax 0113 2597244

FIAT

MASSIVE Savings on Brand New Fiats for private and company Buyers 01480 812239 t

VERY-HUGE Savings on Brand New Fiats for Private Buyers. Tel: 0171 603 6969 T.

FORD

Ford cars nearly new from Scorpio to Fiesta. Lowest prices 01566 652767/01733 352500

FORD

APPROXIMATELY 30 Scorpio's in stock at any one time e.g. Ultima 2.3 4 door auto, P reg, 11,000 miles, £15,495. Ultima 2.0 estate, 96N, ash black, £14,495. Ultima 2.0 4 door, auto, 95 M, 26,000 miles, £11,750. Ultima 2.9 12V, 4 door, auto, 96N, 11k mls, £14,495. Ultima 2.9, 24v, 4 door, auto, N reg, aubergine, leather, £16,995. For all your Ford requirements phone 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun.

CONTRACT HIRE

BISHOPSGATE ASSET FINANCE LTD

Independent Asset Finance & Leasing Specialists

FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

BMW 318i SE 4 door, Boston green/anthracite	£311.00
BMW 328i Automatic Coupe, Arctic silver/anthracite	£379.00
BMW 523i SE 4 door, Arctic silver/anthracite	£439.00
BMW 523i SE touring, Arctic silver/anthracite	£455.00
BMW 528i SE Automatic 4 door, Arctic silver/black leather	£529.00
Land Rover Freelander XEDi 5 door, various	£329.00

The above quotations are based on 3 + 35, 10,000 miles per annum non maintenance. All makes and models supplied

LONDON Tel:0171 283 7799 Fax:0171 626 0995
IPSWICH Tel:01473 833733 Fax:01473 833722
SHEFFIELD Tel:01226 767474 Fax:01226 761666

Office hours: Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

FREE Guide to Contract Hire

FREE Extras on certain Models

* 6 Month Deals *

Mondeo	£349
Golf VR6	£399
Lexus GS 300	£725
Sharan 7 Seater	£499

FLEET MANAGEMENT Inc
Accident Management
Uninsured Loss Recovery
RAC Inc. Relief Vehicle
All Servicing
All Tyres (Fair wear & tear)
All Consumables
From £19.95 pm

PLATINUM

FREEPHONE SOUTH: 0800 7833250
FREEPHONE MIDLANDS: 0800 0733123
FREEPHONE NORTH: 0800 0733345

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Dovercourt Audi

Approved Used Cars

Battersea

97P Audi A4 quattro TDi, 3,000 miles, Competition Alloys, Sports Seats, Quartz Grey
92J Audi 2.3 Auto Cabriolet, 39,000 miles, Red
95M Audi A4 1.8 SE, Emerald Green, 29,000 miles
95M Audi A6 2.6 SE Estate Brilliant Blue, Auto, 30,000 miles, Alloys, Sunroof
95M Audi Coupe S2, Diamond Black, 22,000 miles, Black Leather, 1 Owner, FSH
97P Audi A3 1.8 Sport, Black, 11,000 miles, 1 Owner
96N Audi A4 Avant, Ming Blue, 22,000 miles, Airbags, PAS, C/Locking
96P Audi A4 2.8 quattro, Red Met, 8,000 miles, Competition Alloys
94L Audi 80 2.0 Estate SE, Laser Red, 44,000 miles, Alloys, Roof Rails, FSH
94L Audi 100 2.0E Estate, Azurite Blue, Automatic, 35,000 miles, Extra Rear Seats, 1 Owner, FSH
97P Audi A6 1.8 SE 1st., 7,000 miles, C/C, CD Player, Aluminium Silver
95M Audi 2.6 Auto Cabrio, 22,000 miles, Black, Part Leather, Amazon Green

0171 924 5544
98 York Road
Battersea, London

St. Johns Wood

97P Audi A8 quattro Sport, Emerald, 7,000 miles
97P Audi A8 quattro, Ruby, 13,000 miles
97R Audi A8 2.8 Sport, Ming, 6,000 miles
97P Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Ming, 2,000 miles
97P Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Cactus, 4,000 miles
97P Audi A6 2.4 SE, Tiptronic Racing, 6,000 miles
97R Audi A4 2.8 quattro, Aluminium, 8,000 miles
97P Audi A4 2.6 SE Avant, Cactus, 8,000 miles
97P Audi A4 1.8T, Aluminium, 14,000 miles
97P Audi A4 1.8 SE Avant, Ming, 8,000 miles
97P Audi A3 1.8 T Sport, Laser, 6,000 miles
97P Audi A3 1.8SE, Leather Interior, Competition Alloys, Aluminium Silver

0171 644 7800
59-65 Belsize Road
London NW6 4BE

Scotts Audi

97R Audi S8 4.2 quattro 340bhp. Ming Blue. ecru leather s/seats, front & rear elec seat pack, climate, solar roof, side a/bags, bose, sat. nav, c/d/Nmd, h/l/w, f/armrests, gsm phone, r/locks, 18" avus a/w, 2,900mls £POA

97P Audi A8 3.7 Sport "Tip". Brilliant Black. aqua leather sports interior. climate control. side airbags, front and rear seat pack, solar sun roof, cruise, walnut, f/armrests, bose, 10cd r/locks, f/mirrors, alarm, 18" alloy wheels, 8,360mls £39,995

95M Audi RS2 Avant. RS Blue. leather/alcantara recaro seats, aircon, abs, a/bag, traction, e/roof, 315 BHP, 17" camera cup alloys, 10 stack cd, 39,180mls £39,995

85C Audi Sport quattro 306BHP. Tornado Red, leather and alcantara sports upholstery, superb condition throughout, 83,100kms £39,995

96N Audi A8 4.2 quattro. Indigo Blue, blue leather, climate control, front & rear seat pack, airbags, p/blind, traction, abs, p/s/roof, ew×4, r/locks & t/closure, h/seats, cruise, 10 stack cd, alarm & immobiliser, competition alloy wheels 9,960mls £37,995

97P Audi A8 2.8 Sport. Aluminium Silver, anthracite interior, Twin airbags, abs brakes, pre select sunroof, e/windows x4, 5sp tiptronic, tsc, electric door mirrors, bose sound, sport suspension, 8 spoke alloy wheels, 6,000mls £32,995

97R Audi 2.6E Auto Convertible. Cactus Green. green power hood, full leather, aircon, abs, cruise, walnut, r/locks, w/def, alloy wheels, 4,960mls £31,995

97R Audi 2.6E Auto Convertible. Aluminium Silver, full leather s/seats, blue p/hood, walnut, ew x4, r/locks, cdm, airbag, 17" 10 spoke a/w, 4,000 mls £31,995

95N Audi 2.6E Convertible. Velvet Blue, blue leather / cloth sports seats, blue p/hood, abs, pas, airbag, a/check, e/windows x 4, 10 spoke alloys, 17,980mls £23,995

97P Audi 1.8 20V Convertible. Velvet blue, ecru leather/cloth s/seats, blue hood, abs, pas, airbag, walnut, ew×4, cdl, c/d/mirrors, tints, a/w, 7,860mls £22,995

94M Audi 2.6E Convertible. Indigo Blue, platinum cloth s/seats, blue power hood, abs, ew, procon 10, cdm, cdl, cd, 10 spoke alloy wheels, 23,680mls £19,995

94L Audi 2.6E Convertible. Indigo Blue, blue jacquard s/seats, blue power hood, abs, pas, ew, procon 10, c/locking, cdm, 10 spoke alloys, 41,360mls £19,995

Other Makes

95M BMW 318 Auto Convertible. Madeira Violet, black leather, blue p/hood, abs, airbag, pas, ew x 4, c/locking, r/b/rests, cd, alloy wheels, 18,000mls £21,995

0171 730 2131 Sloane Square
&
0171 495 0000 Berkeley Square

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Franklin Audi ... the forecast is quattro

97P A8 4.2 quattro SPORT ★★★★★	10T £44,500	95M A8 4.2 quattro ★★★★★	29T £30,000
96N A8 4.2 quattro SPORT ★★★★★	21T £36,950	96R A4 2.8 quattro AVANT ★★★★★	2T £P.O.A.
96P A8 4.2 quattro ★★★★★	21T £38,250	97P A4 2.6 quattro ★★★	6T £27,000
96N A8 4.2 quattro ★★★★★	12T £37,500	95M Cabriolet 2.6 ★★	33T £21,000
95N A8 4.2 quattro ★★★★★	21T £34,000	95M S2 Coupe 4WD ★★★★★	15T £27,000

★★ ENHANCED SPEC ★★★ LEATHER OR AIR ★★★★ LEATHER AND AIR ★★★★★ TOTAL SPEC

OPEN 7 DAYS. SUNDAY 10-4. A Sytner Company

Tel 0113 204 1020
EVES:0410 133143, 0370 557909

A used A4 is riddled with innovations.

Audi Approved Used Car Programme.

For more information call 0345 69 97 77.

Audi

To ensure customer service quality standards some calls may be recorded.

Fleetsave

All Makes Supplied Nationwide

TIME IS MONEY & We Can Save You BOTH With Our Wide Range of Funding Options Including Contract Hire at Competitive Rates

Typical 3 Year Rates

Carisma 1.8GLX with Air Con	£212.04
Tigra 1.4i 16v Coupe	£227.23
Mazda MX5 1.6i Convertible	£238.01
Accord 2.0SEi Saloon with Air Con	£243.22
Shogun 2.8GLS TD 3Dr with Met Finish	£289.00
Cherokee 2.5 Sport 5Dr	£289.06
Mondeo 2.5V6 Si 5Dr	£300.64
MG F 1.8i Convertible	£311.53
Mercedes C 220 Diesel Esprit Saloon	£312.65

Call us *NOW* for your quotation

Special Offer
Spacewagon 7 Str MPV with DOP & Metallic Finish
ONLY £235 pm
Please Call For Details

01922 725054 Fax: (01922) 746051

E-Mail: fleetsavelimited@compuserve.com

GENERAL



Audi A4 1.8 Avant £20,411 — BMW 318i Touring £19,660 — Volvo V40 2.0 estate £17,860 — Nissan Primera 2.0 GX estate £17,746 — 7 seater Galaxy 2.0 Aspen £17,495

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE ROOM IN FIRST CLASS. CALL 0345 833 833. GALAXY Ford

Galaxy features 7 seats and Air Conditioning as standard. All vehicles are entry level 2.0 litre (1.8 if 2.0 litre not available) with Air Conditioning. Where Air Conditioning is not standard the option price has been included. All prices are MRP on-the-road prices correct at time of going to press as on 2/2/98.

هكذا من الأصل

A challenge of twists and turns

Eve-Ann Prentice on the launch of *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest

DAVID BURNER/PAGE ONE



Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, and Howard Thomas, Lease Plan's managing director-designate, launch the contest designed to promote safe driving

The Lady was not for turning. Baroness Hayman, Minister for Roads, took one look at the fiendishly placed pattern of cones to test the manoeuvring skills of drivers at the Silverstone racing circuit and declared: "I'm glad I'm not going to have to try it."

The minister was at the wind-swept grand prix circuit to help to launch the 1998 *Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest.

One of the Nissan cars which will be driven by competitors at the finals in June stood innocuously alongside the cones, tempting the unwary to try their luck. But Lady Hayman cast a practised eye over the treacherous water-drenched course and left the steering wheel unturned. "I'm used to an automatic," she said.

The course is certainly a challenge, but the idea of *The Times* contest is to encourage drivers to discover how important driving skill is, rather than to put them off. We could not let Lady Hayman escape as a mere spectator. So, with the minister as passenger, Howard Thomas, Lease Plan's managing director designate and a skilled go-kart racer, took the wheel to try out the tight cone course which forms one element of an array of tests that await Company Car Driver of the Year competitors over the coming months.

> 'Company car drivers think they know best'

Company car drivers have a dubious reputation for being accident-prone in their often helter-skelter life having about Britain's roads, and the contest is aimed at promoting safe driving.

A key fault among many company-car drivers is thinking they know best, according to Drive Tech, the driver-training company which is a partner in the contest and whose chief instructor Chris Howell helps to devise our tests. But only a mixture of care and skill will see competitors succeed in this year's contest.

Lease Plan, which manages fleets totalling 65,000 vehicles in Britain, points out that driver training is in everybody's interest and can save money as well as lives. Training and better accident management could cut company-car insurance claims to a level where large fleet operators may be able to dispense with, for instance, costly comprehensive insurance cover.

"Today's accident is tomorrow's insurance premium," Mr Thomas says.

He set out with Lady Hayman to show how sharp practice can be an advantage. In an apparently flawless display, he took the Almera through a series of acute turns, swoops and reverses. A beaming Lady Hayman paid due tribute as she emerged from the car: "It brings home to me the amount of skill needed in situations that would be dangerous if you met them on the road."

Mr Thomas adds: "Sixty per cent of new cars on the road are company cars, and they have great exposure to risk. The pace of life is fast, and the drivers are rushing to appointments. We want to illustrate that driving aggressively brings only short-term gain. Cars have become so powerful that control needs a higher degree of skill. Unless people have some training, they may not be able to cope with a dire emergency."

Drivers from more than 700 firms have taken part in the Company Car Driver of the Year contest since it started five years ago. If you think your company's drivers have got what it takes, then here is how to enter: teams of three, all of whom must have a company car and be at least 24 years old, can join from companies of any size. Each entry must be endorsed by the person responsible for running the company's car fleet. The entry form is printed below and is also available by telephone from Lease Plan (01753 797284). It must be returned by March 24, 1998.

Twelve finalists will be chosen from heats at six regional venues: Nottingham, Macclesfield, Elstree, Coventry, Shepperton and Swindon. The regional heat winners will then compete for two titles — Company Car Driver of the Year; and Winning Team — at Silverstone on June 26, 1998.

The Company Car Driver of the Year wins a trophy and a luxury trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix; the victorious team will receive a driver-training programme for 12 people and the use of a Nissan car for three months.

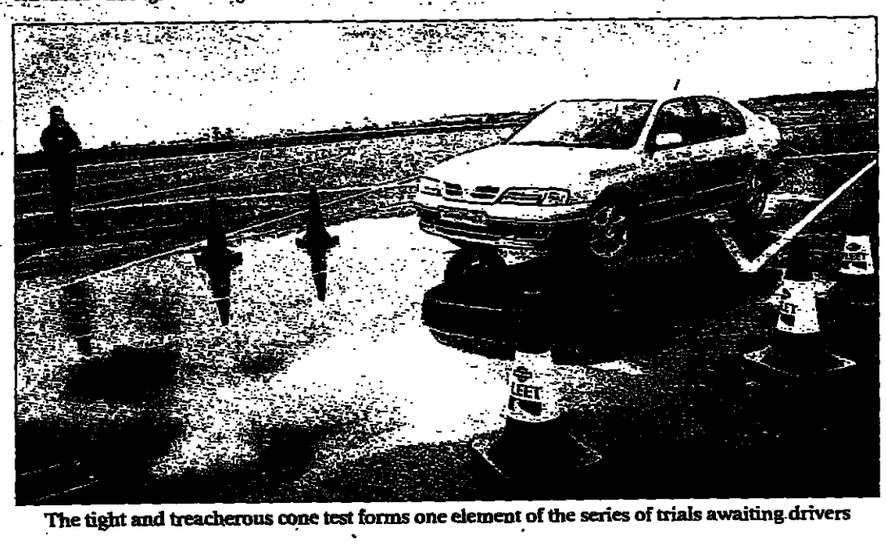
During the regional heats, competitors will face a gruelling series of tests including driving in towns, villages, on dual carriageways and the open road. Away from the public highway, they will negotiate cones and be asked to steer and brake to avoid an obstruction while turning a sharp corner on a wet surface. Emergency procedures, and route and time-management tests are also involved.

For anyone who emerges with motoring reputation and nerves unscathed through the regional heats with a place in the final, the Silverstone course will lie in wait. Nissan, Silverstone and Drive Tech are partners in the event.

On a twisting track each finalist will drive models at both ends of the Nissan range: the turbocharged 200SX and the diminutive Micra 1.0L. They will have to show their ability to master both types of car in a short time. High-speed skidding, rough-terrain driving and a fuel consumption test are also part of the final.

Last year more than 100 companies joined the Driver of the Year contest, which was eventually won by Stephen Robson from Lancashire. The finalists included three women. This year's winner will be announced at a black-tie dinner at Sedgebrook Hall in Northamptonshire after the finals of the contest.

Before that event, a few motoring egos are, however, likely to be punctured in the tough rounds facing them ahead.



The tight and treacherous cone test forms one element of the series of trials awaiting drivers

THE WINNER

'I think ahead now'



Company Car Driver of the Year: Stephen Robson

STEPHEN ROBSON, who holds the Company Car Driver of the Year title, says taking part in the competition left him better equipped to face the unexpected on the road, *Alan Copps writes.*

"Just last night," he says, "an elderly couple in a car pulled out in front of me. I knew better than to jam the brakes on and risk skidding. By hitting the brake, then taking it off, then hitting it again, I was able to get round them with the car under control."

Cadence braking is a test all entrants will face in the heats. They will also drive a route with an examiner and be tested on the Highway Code. Their manoeuvring skills and judgment will be examined by the "ball and saucer" test, when they negotiate a tightly marked course while trying to keep a lightweight ball inside a bonnet-mounted plastic saucer. Classroom tests en route, and time management and emergency procedures are also set.

"I went along to the final with the idea of having a good day out," Mr Robson says. "I'd never been in a skid car before, although I had seen it on television, but I think the fact that I enjoyed what I was doing helped me to relax and win."

Now aware of the hazards that face fleet drivers, Mr Robson has persuaded his company to look at extra driver training. "The experience has taught me to think ahead when I'm on the road," he says. As transport manager for the Lin Pac plastic packaging company, he covers up to 40,000 miles a year but has no illusions about company-car drivers. "They can be dangerous. On the motorway I've seen them on the phone. They're always working against the clock."

According to the statistics, about 77,000 drivers on business were among the 320,302 casualties on Britain's roads in 1996. Of that total, 48,071 were killed or seriously injured. Last year 47 per cent of the drivers of Lease Plan's 65,000-strong fleet of vehicles lodged an insurance claim. Of those drivers, 36 per cent had had some form of training since passing their driving tests. Of the remaining 64 per cent, more than three quarters said they thought training would be beneficial.

WIN A GRAND PRIX TRIP

Celebrate the new Formula One season

■ AS THE new Formula One season approaches, *Times* readers have a unique opportunity to win a trip to the opening Grand Prix in Australia on March 8. Details of the competition, which also features runner-up prizes of the latest *Formula 1 '97* game on PlayStation, will be found in a special tabloid supplement, *Grand Prix '98*, to be published with *The Times* on Monday.

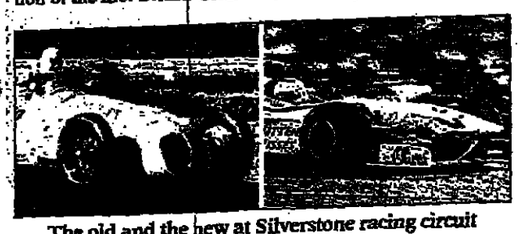
■ The supplement, which also launches our *Fantasy Formula One* game for the season, includes details of all the teams and drivers who will race under this year's new regulations. It includes features on many of the main players and on the history of Silverstone, which marks its 50th anniversary this year.

■ The British Grand Prix in July will once again be the centrepiece of the season at the Northamptonshire track. Two weeks later, at the Coys International Historic Festival, there will be a reconstruction of the first British Grand Prix staged there in 1948, featuring many of the original cars and drivers. The story of that reconstruction is also featured in our supplement.

■ Another of Silverstone's regular highlights takes place next Saturday, when cars of all ages and sizes compete in the Pomeroy Trophy organised by the Vintage Sports Car Club to find the best Grand Tourer, regardless of age or engine capacity.

The competition is run according to a complex handicap formula devised by Laurence Pomeroy, the great Vauxhall designer.

For details phone 01608 644 777.



The old and the new at Silverstone racing circuit

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1998

Entry Form

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1998

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

Name of entrant: ..... *Position:* ..... *Signature:* .....
NB: Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet

Company name: .....

Address: .....

Post code. ..... *Tel number:* ..... *Fax number:* .....

Nature of business: ..... *Number of employees:* ..... *Number of company cars:* .....

NOMINATED DRIVERS

	Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence now?
1					
2					
3					
4	(reserve)				

WHICH VENUE?

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Nottingham	Friday, 17 April	☐
Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 24 April	☐
Elstree, Herts	Friday, 8 May	☐
Coventry	Friday, 15 May	☐
Shepperton, Middx	Friday, 29 May	☐
Swindon	Friday, 5 June	☐

You must ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 26 June 1998. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

• **Competition rules**

The closing date for entries is 24 March 1998. Drivers must be 24 years of age and over to enter. Only corporate entries will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated by the owners, being the director/senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate herself/himself as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team in each of the Lease Plan regions. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, The Silverstone Driving Centre and Hawk Instructors are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the competition, competitors who attained the lead score must not enter a team in any year ceased, including organisations such as driver training companies. Any employees of vehicle leasing and contract hire companies, any person holding an Advanced Driving Institute certificate, any current of the motor trade, the armed forces and the police are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a written test or other telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The referee driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to compete in their place. The prize for the winner will be a special trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix. The team/company prize will be a driver training programme for twelve employees and two cars at a choice selected for a period of three months. Cash alternatives are not available. A list of winners at each heat and at the final is available from Lease Plan upon request. The judge's decision is final.

Once you have completed this form, fax it back to Lease Plan on 01753 620676

or post to Marketing Dept, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1TY. For further information call Leaseplan on 01753 797284

هكذا من الاصل

FORD

GRANADA Scorpio's in stock, L reg, 4 or 5 door. Choice 5, 2.0 and 2.9 24V. For details Tel: 01530 560 056 T

HIGH specification Mondeo's in stock, late year, low mileage, Ghia / Ghia X, saloons & estates. Tel: 01530 560056 T

FERRARI AUTHORISED

Graypaul A Sytner Company

LIMITED EDITION
- 50G F40 6T £157,500

2+2 12 CYLINDER
- 95R 456GT 300mls £1ST
- 96P 456GT AUTO 6T £149,000
- 96P 456GT AUTO 9T £145,000
- 94M 456GT 44T £99,000

12 CYLINDER
- 97P F512M 300mls £115,000
- 91J TESTAROSSA 2T £65,000
- 91H TESTAROSSA 6T £60,000

F355
- 97P F355 B 300mls £95,500
- 97P F355 SPIDER 3T £132,500
- 96N F355 B 2T £92,000
- 95N F355 GTS 6T £91,500
- 95M F355B 14T £80,250

348
- 94M 348 SPIDER 16T £69,500
- 94L 348TS 4T £61,000
- 93L 348TS 13T £59,500
- 92J 348TS 3T £55,500
- 91H 348 TB 5T £56,000

328 GTS/GTB
- 90G 328 GTS 7T £51,000
- 89G 328 GTB 9T £50,000
- 89F 328 GTS 15T £48,500

CLASSIC
- 63Y 512 BB 17T £65,000

URGENTLY WANTED
All Ferrari with full service history, especially the following models: 328, 308, 246, Mondial and 456. Please call Mario Vignali

01509 23 22 55

FERRARI

TESTAROSSA red, twin mirror, full colour coded, 1988, FSH, Magnolia hide, 26,000 miles, last serviced Sept including belts, 8 months warranty. £46,500. Divorce forces very reluctant sale. Tel: 0973 502956/01564 785287

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WANTED

1986 1995 Top prices paid for all low mileage 4x4's. Mole Valley Motor Group 01372 749090.

HONDA

COUPE Legend-rarely seen model. Superb condition, only 39k. Silver. Covered by Honda warranty. £13,500. Tel: 01384 393731

PRELUDE 2.3i 4WS, L reg, red, alloys, air cond, Cobra alarm, FSHH, 1 owner, tax and MOT. £8,900ono. Tel: 0181 806 8005 ext 206 or 0958 622781

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

XK8 Coupe 97(P)
Sapphire Blue/ Oatmeal-Black Sports Leather, Sports Pack, Sports Suspension, 18" Alloys, Harmond Sound System, Cruise. 15,000 miles £43,995 ono PX HP
Heathrow BMW 0181 848 5566/ 0802 611566 / 0378 350066

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

TWR Seriously Jaguar. Instinctively TWR
- 97P XJ6 3.2 EXECUTIVE, Auto, Sapphire Hide, A/C, 12T £29995
- 96P XJ6 3.2 SPORT, Auto, Antigua/Oatmeal, A/C 21T £29995
- 96P XJ6 3.2, Auto, Carnival Red/Oatmeal, 16T £28995
- 96N XJ6 3.2, Auto, Topaz/Oatmeal, A/C, 38T £26995
- 96N XJ6 3.2 EXECUTIVE, Auto, Sapphire/Oatmeal, A/C, 13T £28995
- 94L XJ6 3.2 S, Auto, Kingfisher/Magnolia, 39T £16995
- 93L XJ6 3.2, Auto, Red/Doeskin, A/C, 48T £14995
- 96P XJR 4.0 SC, Auto, Red/Oatmeal, A/C, 26T £37995
- 96N SOVEREIGN 4.0, Auto, Nautilus, ESR, A/C, 25T £30495
- 94M SOVEREIGN 4.0, Auto, Red/Doeskin Hide, A/C 43T £19995
- 94M SOVEREIGN XJ12 6.0 Auto Kingfisher, A/C, ESR, 35T £22995
- 94L XJS 4.0 COUPE, Auto, Ice Blue, A/C, Cruise, 33T £21995

TEL: 01604 239944 SUNDAY: 0467 678449

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

1993 XJS 6.0L in metallic red with magnolia leather. This vehicle has covered only 4,000 miles and is in as new condition. The property of a wealthy owner of 12 other cars who now needs the room in his extensive garage. £22,500. 01963 440804 DAY 01935 840919 EVE.

XJR V8 new model, good spec, 1400 mls, £53,950 ono. 0191 3887272/ 0191 4876887.

XJS 4.0 CONVERTIBLE auto, '93 L. Flamenco/Magnolia. A/C. Comp. Cruise. FSH. Jag wty. Immac. £21,950. 01753 851677.

XK8 Convertible, 97R, Ice Blue, Blue Roof, Classic Int, Oatmeal, 18" Wheels, Cruise Control, Etc. £58,995 ono. 0171 370 5264

XK8 Coupe Jan97, Sherwood green, Classic pack, Oatmeal trim, CATS 18"wheels, CD, 6300 mls. Garaged. Immac. Tel:0973 118107. £49,000

XK8 COUPE 96P, Sapphire blue, light cream hide, classic pac, drivers pac, cat suspension, Harman Kardon, 18" alloys, 7,000 miles, FSH, no px available. £48,995. 01703 648215 work/ 0468 307088 mobile/ 01489 877474 home.

XK8 Conv 97P BRG/Charcoal leather, sport leather pack, stunning, 5,000 miles £56,500. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

01372 749090 Mole Valley are THE Jaguar Buyers. Collect Nationwide. 0831 406172 w/e.

DAIMLER V12 - VDP. Gold. 11/82 but only 71k. Looks like new. Superb mechanically. One owner. £4,995. Tel: 01384 393731

LEX are leading nationwide buyers of Jaguars. One call reaches six dealerships. Call Tim Boyd 0836 222830/0161 224 2206 t

LAMBORGHINI

COUNTACH 5000 S (1984), Acapulco Blue/Cream Leather, 24,000 miles. Beautifully maintained, £45,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

COUNTACH 5000 S (1984), Acapulco Blue/Cream Leather, 24,000 miles. Beautifully maintained, £45,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

LAMBORGHINI Diablo, (93K), Rosso Red/Cream Leather, Rear Wing, Sports Exhaust, 6,000 miles, £75,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

LAMBORGHINI Diablo, (93K), Rosso Red/Cream Leather, Rear Wing, Sports Exhaust, 6,000 miles, £75,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

MERCEDES 500SL 9/92, Maroon Met, hide, a/c, a/bag, full spec, low mls, FMBSH. £26,500 04681 55888/01424 850881 L

MERCEDES C250 D Turbo, '97 R, Grn/Blk, a/c, ESR, FMBSH, auto 5 spd, 9 hole. 01491 414104.

MERC SL320 conv, 95N, D Blue, full spec, hide, a/c, 56k, fmbsh. £29,995. 0181 8771122 t

MIDLAND L.H.D. Suppliers of new & used L.H.D. vehicles, variety in stock. Left hand drive cars wanted. Tel: 01543 414 307

VW GOLF Estate 1.4, 5 dr. Oct '97, R reg, met blue, 6,500 mls, as new. £8,750. 0171 352 7802.

LEXUS

400, 92K, White/ Cream leather interior, 8CD, immobiliser, FLSH. Bargain at £16,700. No Canvassers. 01892 546793

GS300 3.0 '95 M, 4 dr auto, silver, full elec pack inc. CD, A/C, 67,000 mls, FSH. Immaculate. £19,995. 0370 423210.

COUPES direct from Japan, right hand drive V.8, twin turbo and 3 litre models new and used. Intercar of London 0181 203 3399 or visit our new Manchester Showroom 0161 764 8881

GS300, 1994 (June), Dark green/beige trim. 20,000 miles, Service history. Immaculate throughout. Bargain at £19,000. Tel: 01905 353958/754800.

LS400 93(L) 33k. Unmarked, full history, 4 months warranty. £23,950. 0181 343 4466.

GS300 Sport Oct 97, regent green, 3k. £34,000. 03784 64717. 01564784348 tue/thd.

SOARAR '91 H reg, 2 dr.coupe, 2.5 litre twin turbo, pearl white, 47,000 mls. Immaculate condition throughout, fully loaded. Many extras, £16,500. 01204 571070 or 0802 972066.

LOTUS

ELAN Big Valve Sprint, DHC 1973, red & gold, mint, regardless of cost, Lotus chassis, taxed, MOT, all correct & very rare. £12,500. 01727 823546.

ELISE 97P Norfolk Mustard/Blue Leather. Superb 18,000 miles, £23,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

ELISE Available April. Entirely to your own specification. £2,000 over list price. 01706 826885

ESPRIT S4 Turbo 1993, Bright red, leather, excellent cond. 39K mls', a/c, sunroof. £24,500 ONO. Tel: 0171 289 0893.

MAZDA

323F 1.5GLX 96(N). £9,350. Red, new shape, 20k, warranty. Immac. FSH, tax, alarm, stereo, P/S. 0181 7319878 (NW11).

MAZDA Choice best choice, keenest prices. Mazda Choice freephone 0800 323 626

MAZDA

MX5 1.8LS June 96, red, 14,000 mls, immaculate condition. £14,225. Tel: 0181 441 9258

LEXUS AUTHORISED

LEXUS IN SUSSEX

LS400
- 96N LEXUS LS400 finished in Regent Green with Dovewhite Cream Leather, 1 Owner, Sun roof, Air-Con, CD Player, Heated Seats, Twin Airbags, FSH, 3 Year Lexus Guarantee Unlimited Mileage Warranty ....[illegible]
- 96N LEXUS LS400 finished in Lucerne Silver with Winchester Grey Leather, 1 Owner, Twin Airbags, CD Player, Heated Seats, FSH, 3 Year Lexus Guarantee Unlimited Mileage Warranty £36,995
- 97R LEXUS LS400 finished in Cashmere Gold with Dovewhite Cream Leather, Air Con, CD Player, ABS, Electric Seats, Twin Airbags, Manufacturers Warranty £42,995

GS300 SPORT
- 97R LEXUS GS300 SPORT finished in Regent Green Pearlescent with Grey Leather, Twin Air Bags, Alloy Wheels, Heated Seats, 1 Owner/Manufacturers Warranty £31,995
- 97P LEXUS GS300 SPORT finished in Damask Red with Westminster Grey Leather, Twin Airbags, 16" Alloy Wheels, Electric Heated Seats, 1 Owner £32,995

GS300
- 97P LEXUS GS300 finished in Regent Green with Warwick Grey Leather, ABS, Twin Airbags, Air Con, E/Seats, Manufacturers Warranty £29,995
- 94M LEXUS GS300 finished in Sherwood Green with Cream Leather, ABS, Twin Airbags, Air Con, E/Seats, 3 Years Warranty £22,995
- 94L LEXUS GS300 finished in Astral Black with Cream Leather, ABS, Twin Airbags, Air Con, E/Seats, 3 Years Warranty £19,995

OTHER MARQUE
- 94M JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 4.0 AUTO finished in Metallic Red with Beige Leather, 2 Owners from new, only 15,000 miles, ABS, Alloys, Heated Seat, Absolutely Superb Condition £29,995

Evans Halshaw
351 Southcoast Road, Telscombe Cliffs, Brighton
CONTACT: MATTHEW PARSONS
Telephone: 01273 582428
Mobile: 0468 738821

MERCEDES

300E '92 J, almandine, cream lthr, 54,000 mls, FMBSH, fully loaded. Must sell. £12,500. 01474 823100/ 0860 667885.

300SL 24V, 93, signal red, beige leather, superb condition, rear seats, cd player, 8 hole alloy wheels, tracker, FMBSH, 2 previous owners. £37,500. Tel: 01689 854251/0973 136462

300 SE 1993 Malachite Green, 1 owner from new, only 12,000 miles £24,500. Please ring Cruickshank 0117 966 9831.

300SL 87D Pearl Blue/Grey Cloth, Time Capsule Car. Fabulous! 24,000 miles, £22,500 Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

300 SL24V 92J, Black/cream, full spec, tracker, FMBSH, Immac. £34,995. 01582 842589.

320CE 93K, Blue Black, Grey Lthr Interior, Auto, FSH, Alloys, ESR, 52k mls, Immac Cond. £23,500. Tel: 0171 9287474(W) or 0181 3039607(H)

320 SL 1995M, 25,000 miles, Azurite blue, cream leather, rear seats, Air Con, stacking CD. Pristine condition, one owner. £45,500. 0181 5023434.

320 SPORT COUPE AUTO, 1 lady owner, 15K mls only, A/C, elec roof, alm, Boston Grn/light Grey lthr, pass airbag, CD, autochanger, £26,950. Tel: 0378 003383 (Bath area).

320 SPORT COUPE AUTO, 1 lady owner, 15K mls only, A/C, elec roof, alm, Boston Grn/light Grey lthr, pass airbag, CD, autochanger, £26,950. Tel: 0378 003383 (Bath area).

380 SLC auto, coupe, 80W, Gold, all elec, a/c, cruise, PAS, CD, S/R, alloys, immac, new engine by Mercedes at 80K, current 156K, same owner since 83, £8,950. Tel: 0181 684 2304(W)/ 0181 660 0097(H)

500SE F-reg almandine red /mushroom leather, a-con, full electrics R/H/R 92k MBSH £10,995 Mr Lawson, Autoselect, Kirriemuir, Tayside 01575 575500

500SL 91, LHD, Metallic Black/ Black leather, 56K mls, excellent condition, £25,750. Tel: 01534 481927/ 0410 306948

500SEC 91J, Bornite, Cream Hide, A/C All extras, 78K, FMBSH, Mint, £19,500. 01989 522058

C36 AMG CC, A/C, ESR, ETS etc, immac condition, 1996, low mileage, £36,250ono. No canvassers. Tel: 01929 471636 or 0831 420289

C200 Auto, Imperial Red, FMBSH, 44k mls, Kenwood CD, VGC. £16,450ono. 0181 6474873

C220 ELL Auto, 95M, 28K mls. Ducati Body Kit & alloys. Met black, 1 own, FSH, £19,995. 01206 305373 0589 387020

C200 Elegance 1995(M), Auto, beryll metallic, grey cloth, alloys, garaged, 1 owner. Many extras, 34,000 mls, FMBSH, £17,995. 01704 894387 (W).

C220 Elegance auto, P reg, green/black, mushroom, air bag, walnut, cruise, only 15,000 mls, FMBSH. £20,750. 0961 852678 (Surrey).

C180 Elegance '96 N auto, ruby/mushroom, 15K, one owner, air con, sun roof, alloys, FMBSH, immaculate. £18,500. 01277 354588 /0836 687472

C180 ELEGANCE P reg, Met, 6k, 10 CD, Auto/Cruise, A/C. £21,950 Company disposal. Tel: 01189 415607.

CLK 320 Sport, auto, Met paint, a/c, s/roof, quartz lthr, electric memory drivers seat, delivery mileage. Avail immediately. £45,250. 0171 431 5690.

CLK 200 Sport, Auto, Every option. Azurite Met, 2k mls. Tracker. Delivery now. Tel: 01249 700016/01225 448104. Sensible offer secures.

CLK 230 Sports, Ruby red, Quartz leather, auto, 4k mls, R 97, ESR, air con, rain sensor, radio/cd. £37,995. Stunning car. 01268 526737 or 0976 243697

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

MERCEDES

CL 500 P96, Gen Blk/Mushroom, elec glass roof, roller blind, wood/lthr steering wheel, cd auto changer, 23K mls, £59,950. Tel: 0378 003383 (Bath area).

C230 SPORT P reg. Met. 7 k. 10 CD. Manual. £22,960 Company disposal. 01189 415607.

E36 AMG 96P green-black met/ black lthr a/c cruise ESR ASR under 12k. Stunning £51,995. Mr Lawson, Autoselect, Kirriemuir, Tayside 01575 575500

E220 Auto conv 95M brilliant silver/grey leather, black hood, heated f/seats, 8 hole alloys, CD 31,000 miles £32,500. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

E320 Auto Conv Almandine Red/Mushroom Leather. Fabulous! 38,000 miles, £36,000. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

E200 Auto 96N Silver, 28,950 miles, walnut, ABS, PAS, Elec/roof, FSH, £16,995, KT Green 01274 522111.

E200 Auto 94M Dk Blue, E/Roof, FMBSH, 40k Mls, £14,750 0171 514 0410, 0468 505623

E220 Coupe, auto, 1994 L, D blue, electric windows, sunroof, wood trim, 24k mls. £18,960ono. 0171 226 4658

E220 COUPE 1994 L, Bornite met, top spec, excellent condition, FMBSH, 50K mls, super example. £29,000. 0860 250891.

E320 Elegance, 5 spd sports gear box, '96 N, met blue/cream hide, memory drivers seat, A/C, ESR, Lorenzo alloys, all extras fitted, Immaculate, 50,000 mls. FMBSH. £27,500. Tel: 01376 345856 (off) or 0394 708851.

E220 estate, '94 M, FMBSH, met green/beige, EW, ESR, EHR, radio/cass, immac. 106K mls, £12,975. 0181 441 6610.

E200 Estate, Metallic Blue, Auto, Alloys, S/roof, B/cassette, 7 seats etc. 57K. FMBSH. £16,500. Tel: 01672 870213

E300 91(J) grey/black/ full lthr 138,000kms FMBSH a/c cruise multi disc CD, £23,750. Richard Lawson, Autoselect, Kirriemuir, Tayside 01575 575500

E220T Auto, 94L, VGC, A/C, ESR, Silver blue metallic, FMBSH. 44k, £18,995, 0181 810 4868.

S600 Cpe 96 green black massive Spec 18k as new £64950 px Marlow 01628 660413 Bucks.T

SLK Kompressor '97. Leather, LHD, 6,000km, air con. £25,000 no offers. Tel: 0181 8107689 or 0410 548864

SL500 96 new shape. Azurite, exclusive mushroom leather, cd, 22k, heated & orthopaedic, & rear sts, e.s.p, alys. £59,995. 01375383831w 0976687561p

SL320 '96 P, Azurite blue, FMBSH, leather, rear child seats, climate, 8 hole alloy wheels. 4,500 miles. £57,000 ono. Tel: 0116 2705071.

S600L 96P, Dark metallic blue, cream leather, usual extras, co directors car, FMBSH, £57,995 ono. 01709 812388

SL320 P reg, 10k mls, Glass hard roof, Offers around £56,000. 01866 372102/0976 205255

SL320 1997R, Azurite Blue, Brand New, Full Option, Special Price for Quick Sale £66,500. 0411 755414/0181 8920581

S320 S Class '96 N, green/blk, S600 spec, special edition, 44,000 mls. £39,995. 0181 551 2053 (H) or 0860 469556.

S320 Silver, 29,000 mls, FMBSH, Immaculate cond. 10 months wty remaining. All usual S Class refinements. Move forces sale. £38,000. 0973 219 293

MERCEDES WANTED

1987 1996 Premium prices paid for all Mercedes. Glenn Williams 01372 749090.T

WANTED Wanted. All Mercedes, any miles / condition. 01628 660413 / 0831 123911 now T

MG

96P MGF VVC Charcoal, H/Top, Leather, A/Con, CD Player etc. 3,500 miles, £21,995. 0171 514 0410, 0468 505623

MGF's Park Lane offer a choice of 15 pre-owned vehicles from £14,995. 0171 514 0410, 0468 505623

MGF VVC P reg. 1996, charcoal black/lthr, walnut interior, 10 stack CD auto, 14,000 mls, as new. £17,995 ONO. 0181 959 0084 or 0467 356684.

MGF VVC, '97 R reg, BRG, 7,000 miles. Full leather. Hard top. A/C. Wood. Mini disc. Many extras. £21,000. Tel: 07771 595 199 London

MITSUBISHI

SHOGUN 2.8 TDI GLS LWB Auto 97P Roanne Red/Silver Grey leather, air con, ext. chrome bars, side steps, lamp guards, walnut dash + st. wheel, CD stack, 13,000 miles, £27,950. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

SHOGUN 97P V6 auto. Red/silver, leather, air con, wood, t-bar, £25,995. Tel: 01732840257, 0385112508m.

MORGAN

+4 4 seater, 1996, nil miles, taking delivery in 2 weeks, red, stone hide. Sensible offers invited. 01733 263584.

4/4 2 seater Morgan, 1988, 21,500 miles, FSH, Connaught green, all alloy, chrome wire wheels, walnut dash, 4 branch manifold S/S exhaust etc. £14,500. Tel: 01253 882729

PLUS 8 Dec' 85, fast road, 3.9 spec, never raced. FSH, genuine 26,000 mls. Present owner 10 yrs. Pvte plate. Too many extras to list. A very special car. £19,950. 01727 823545.

NISSAN

300 ZX twin turbo Targa, '94 L, 25,000 mls, blue, superb car. £21,950. 0181 977 4829.

SKYLINES direct from Japan, new and used. Quicker than a Ferrari and more exclusive. For further information and a test drive call Intercar of London 0181 203 3399

PERFORMANCE CARS

CATERHAM JPE The last produced. Brand New. Yet to be Registered. Top Spec, Race Chassis £45500. Tel: 0973 226309

CATERHAM 1800 X series (97R), 3K miles, Yellow/Black leather. £24,250. 0115 9732346.

VIPER GTS (97R), 200 miles, blue/white stripes, £56,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

VIPER GTS (97R), 200 miles, Blue/White Stripes, £54,000. Graypaul 01509 232233.

PEUGEOT

306 GTi6 97P Blue Yellow 7K miles 1 own £15,995 Del arranged 01902 363000T

PEUGEOT Marques, high value, P and R registration - New 406 V6 Coupe SE, satellite Grey, storm Black leather, A/C, R/R/S, list price - Immediate delivery - 97R 406 2.0 manual coupe A/C pulsar. £18,995. 0800 306 406.

PORSCHE WANTED

CARRERA 2 or 4 Cabriolet wanted 1990 or 1991 model. Please telephone Jeremy Mallett 01949 861289.

WANTED Wanted. All Porsche, any miles / condition. 01628 660413/ 0831 123911 now. T

Selling your Porsche? contact Roger Murphy The Porsche buyer 0402 911 911 RIVERVALE PORSCHE

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

32 DVO £1,850 01704 548686 / 0831 197786

77 TJ On retention. £5,000 Tel/Ans/Fax 01442 863232

VZ 3 £6,250.00 Tel: 01275 830485.

WUH 1 Same owner past 30 years. Fax offers over £6,000 Fax: 0171 284 3086

REG 4 VEHICLES 0116 2425353 Most +. VAT & DOT Fee

[illegible]

THOUSANDS MORE AVAILABLE

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

1972 SILVER SHADOW Seychelles blue, 38,000 miles, present owner 24 years. £14,950. 01904 360124.

BENTLEY Turbo R 96N Wildberry/Silverstone Leather. Incredible saving on new 12,000 miles, £74,850. Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

SPIRIT II '92, Bordeaux/magnolia, 32,000 mls, reluctant sale, FMBSH, negotiable at £39,900. Tel: 01702 587884.

TURBO R '89 F, FBSH, Balmoral green/magnolia, beautiful, 56K mls. £29,500. 01395 232272.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED

FORD EXPLORER part exchange, cash either way. Tel: 01702 348856. (no dealers).

WANTED Wanted, Rolls & Bentley Models, Any miles/cond. 01628 660413 or 0831 123911

ROVER

8251 1987 Fine condition, low mileage for year, clean white bodywork, comprehensive maintenance history. 2 former keepers. Drives exceptionally well. Taxed and tested. £1,600. West London 0181 752 6475.

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

A selection of quality used Saab models including Convertibles at competitive prices. Freephone Kentish Saab for full stock list, on 0800 513900 http://www.kentishsaab.co.uk

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

NASH & NASH 01232 711788/392400

£59 UAZ 1218 UAZ 1219	FBZ 887 £250	PORSCHE	OXI 861 £295	VDZ 419 £250
ALZ 1950 £795	FL 2252 £295	NIL 8944 £495	RAZ 9908 £159	VDZ 411 £259
ALZ 1951 £795	GZ 9 £3600	MAZ 911T £1250	RBZ 291 £295	WDZ 113 £295
ALZ 6819 £150	GAZ 8887 £395	MAZDA	RBZ 8386 £99	YIB 2896 £150
BAZ 4200 £395	GAZ 1967 £1150	MAZ 7750 £199	RXI 820 £395	YXI 686 £295
BLZ 5457 £99	IAZ 629 £295	MAZ 9839 £395	SAZ 6713 £150	MERC + BMW
JAGUAR	IDZ 878 £295	MIA 2349 £495	SBZ 1628 £99	JAZ 280 £595
CAT 652T £350	IL 330 £395	MIL 1629 £295	SXI 4396 £220	OIL 4220 £395
CAZ 1404 £395	JIL 7380 £295	MIL 5264 £199	TAZ 5611 £495	OIL 6318 £199
CJI 706 £1250	JJI 775 £595	NIL 5162 £150	TAZ 7824 £120	OIL 6920 £199
CUI 888 £295	KAZ 9157 £295	NIL 7851 £795	TAZ 6011 £199	UAZ 1220 £295
CXI 978 £295	KOP 799 £1200	NIL 7863 £295	TDZ 182 £295	UAZ 1320 £295
EAZ 905 £295	KXI 379 £295	NIL 7868 £150	UAZ 1222 £100	WXI 180 £795
EDZ 4810 £250	KIW 3084 £220	OIL 4404 £295	UDZ 153 £280	
	LXI 431 £295	OIL 4959 £99	UXI 570 £250	
	MXI 12 £1150	OIL 4960 £99	VJI 1941 £99	

MARKET RESEARCH [illegible]

BW 7370	2,800	H4 TTS	1,300	LYJ 111	1,800	REG 944X	800
701 DA	1,400	HAZ 401	1,000	2 MA	12,000	RN 3199	1,600
896 DMF	1,800	HAZ 402	800	MIB 9669	800	RR 3796	2,800
4020 DP	2,000	HAZ 403	800	M3 RCX	2,500	898 RTU	800
DSK 632	800	HAZ 404	900	3626 MF	1,750	SFR 523	1,200
EK 7631	1,450	HK 4741	1,600	MIBLKS	1,200	SJJ 3	2,800
ESB 74	1,800	HRF 80	1,000	MIL 345	1,200	AIS OAN	500
FAZ 1221	800	JAG 60IY	500	525 ML	1,400	TER 27	2,300
FK 6304	1,300	JB 8861	3,800	MMV 99	1,500	8 TES	2,800
FM 8806	1,500	JIL 1865	1,200	MPH 6W	600	UF 4	3,800
5 FS	4,800	JW 19	1,600	MPW 29E	500	WA 2160	1,400
FXB 340	500	846 KAB	1,800	NI6 ELX	1,600	WD 112	2,000
AI6 ADD	500	KCL 928	1,250	630 NT	1,950	1 XKK	5,000
838 GEA	1,200	KDL 492	700	OCV 9N	1,500	XLD 58	1,000
GIL 56	2,500	KO 5184	800	PHH 9IIX	500	XUH 4	1,500
GOW 257	1,000	750 KYC	600	PN 7874	1,800	XUH 5	1,500
940 GWD	1,000	LEO 30Y	900	7 PW	10,000	YB 7794	1,200
H4 NON	1,000	792 LMT	1,400	RDM 761	2,000	YPW 546	850

DVLA AUCTION OF ATTRACTIVE REGISTRATION MARKS
If you are contemplating a bid please consider the benefits of expert advice; we provide comprehensive information, essential when coming to a bid decision; otherwise you may inadvertently bid too much or too little.

[illegible]

DK REGISTRATIONS Sudbury (01787) 312222
Many thousands of numbers available from our computer listings.

OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRES

Stratstone WILMSLOW
[illegible]
Contact Andy Axton or David Hobson on 01625 522222 or 0498 643838 SUNDAYS 10AM-3PM

Merlin NOTTINGHAM
[illegible]
Telephone: 0115 942 0944 Open Sundays 10am-3pm

Merlin
[illegible]
OPEN 7 DAYS 01222 614622 or 07970 652209

RIVERVALE

944/968/928		
91H 944 Cabriolet White, Blue Leather	35T	£21,000
94L 968 Club Sport White, ESR	29T	£25,000
94L 968 Coupe "Tiptronic" Black, A/C	27T	£30,000
95M 968 Sport Black, ESR	41T	£26,000
89G 928 S4 Auto Silver, Burgundy Leather	53T	£23,500
911 Coupe		
88F 911 Sport Coupe Guards, ESR	63T	£24,000
88C 911 SSE Coupe White, ESR	48T	£26,000
93K 911 C2 Coupe Black, Grey Leather, ESR	37T	£38,000
94L 911 C2 Coupe "Tiptronic" Midnight, A/C, Alloys	13T	£51,000
94M 911 C2 Coupe Black, A/C, 17" Alloys, 10Spk	12T	£51,000
95M 911 C2 Coupe "Tiptronic S" Aventura, A/C,Alloys	10T	£53,000
96P 911 C2 Coupe Arena, A/C, 17" Alloys	19T	£55,000
95M 911 C4 Coupe Aventura, A/C, 17" Alloys	22T	£51,000
95M 911 C4 Coupe Aventura, A/C, Alloys, Full Lthr	12T	£53,000
96P 911 C4 Coupe Black, Sport Seats, Turbo Alloys	17T	£56,000
96N 911 C4 "S" Iris, A/C, 18" Alloys	25T	£63,000
97P 911 C2 "S" Black, A/C, 18" Turbo Alloys	11T	£P.O.A.
97P 911 C2 "S" Tiptronic "S", Black, A/C, T Alloys	3T	£P.O.A.
95M 911 Turbo 4 Midnight	16T	£83,000
96N 911 Turbo 4 Silver	1T	£93,000
911 Cabriolet/Targa		
96G 911 C4 Targa Slate, A/C	26T	£32,000
97P 911 Targa "Tiptronic S" Ocean, Cruise, 10 SPK	6T	£P.O.A
89F 911 SSE Cabriolet White, Blue Leather	13T	£36,000
95M 911 C2 Cabriolet White, A/C, 17" Alloys, 10SPK	20T	£54,000
95M 911 C2 Cabriolet "Tiptronic S" Silver, Alloys	13T	£55,000
97P 911 C4 Cabriolet Silver, A/C, 18" Turbo Alloys	9T	£P.O.A.

PORSCHE
Tel: 01273 780911, Sundays 0850 911911
[illegible]

PORSCHE

911 Carrera 2, '94 M, Moving abroad. Full spec, alloys, CD etc, immob. FPSH, 19K mls. £44,500. Tel: 0171 394 1154.

911 Carrera 4, 92(K), guards red, silver grey hide, 17"alloys, ESR, cup alloys, new tyres, immac £27,950. 01253 821585.

911 C4, H reg, red, FPSH, 69k, black all/leather seats, ESR, 4 new tyres. Immac. £27,995

911 TARGA tiptronic, late 96P, Blue met, all extras, CD + customised speakers and amp, glass roof and door closers. Full 24 hr tracker. 9,500 mls. £64,000 ono. 0385 366 326.

911 TURBO 1988, red, black leather, 24,000 miles. £32,000. (Poss part X 4x4 10k max) Tel: 01788 840101.

928 GTS X reg (private plate), automatic. Very special car in 1st class condition. Unique colour code of metallic maroon and silver grey hide. Full specification inc elec roof, elec sports seats, air cond, C/D, computer, etc. Faultless mechanics. Porsche maintained regardless of cost. Lady owner. £33,500. Please tel: 0171 581 2468

928 S4 auto 1991, met blue, cream hide, 76k mls, AC, LSD, FPSH, £19,995. 0181 6938157

928 S4, Auto, FPSH, All refinements, Linen Met, £12,950. 0385 360369/01305 833400

928 S4 G reg, black, cream hdr, FPSH, 73K mls, £14,750. 0181 332 7317 H/0171 976 0444 W.

944 S2 Cab, Sep90, Met blue, only 32,500k(7,300 in last 3 yrs), FPSH, SS & hood, gsged & 2nd car only, sh, immac, immob & alarm. £19750 01279 792 292(h) 0171 234 4289(w).

944 S2 1992 J, Grand Prix White/Blue Half Lthr, FPSH, Stunning Example. £17,500. 01482 640327(Eves/Wknd)

986 New, available now, ocean blue, sunroof, traction control. Offers. 01676 522237.

BOXTER 1998, LHD, Silver Met/ Black lthr, A/C £38,000. Tel: 01705 467464/ 0802 284221.

TURBO 4 97R 3,000 careful dry mls. Silver/blue lth, Seats plus extras, As new. £95,000 ono(p) No canvassers. Tel: 01789 268867(Stratford).

SAAB

900 TURBO CONVERTIBLE Talladega, Auto, 4k, Silver, Black lthr, Mint, Gged, Priv sale in UK. £25,250. 00 492161551761.

900 SE 2.5 V6, Nov 94, M reg, black with black leather int, auto, ac, stereo, ABS, TCS, 40k mls, beautiful condition, 1 owner, FSH. £14,996. Tel: 0171 702 1264(evening or weekend)

TVR

92 Griffith 4 litre; Silver Metallic, Blue Hide, Cross Spoke Alloys, only 16,000 miles, £22,996 Contact Lance at merlin on 01222 614622 or 0797 0652209.

BROUGHTONS of Bristol -- the UK's newest TVR dealer serving the Bristol and Avon area. Telephone today for all of your TVR requirements. 0117 980 0388 / 0370 480 264.

CHIMAERA 4.5 (97P), 6,000 miles, Sunstar blue/Magnolia hide, £24,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

CHIMERA 94M Midnight Blue / Magnolia Leather. Stunning! 34,000 miles, £24,500 Sytner Direct 0115 924 1144

CHIMERA 4.5 (97P), 6,000 miles, sunstar blue/magnolia hide, £24,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

SAAB

900 CONVERTIBLE 2.0i M reg ('95), Citrus white/Black hide, Black hood, alloys, garaged, 25,000 miles only. Immaculate. £17,950. Tel: 01256 862222.

9000 conv, 96N, 26K mls, Black/ lthr, ABS, 6CD, Walnut, FBSH, superb, £17K. 01494 673511

REGISTRATION NO'S. CNDA MEMBERS

RT REGISTRATION TRANSFERS
139 HIGH STREET SOUTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDS LU6 3SS
Tel (01582) 477333

1 LO-COST 24 HOUR INSTANT FAX-A-LIST
2 OUR INTERNET SITE HTTP://WWW.REGTRANSFERS.CO.UK
3 TELEPHONE

[illegible]

All numbers + £80 DOT fee, some numbers + VAT
Transactions subject to our terms, conditions and availability

THREE NAMES SIX LOCATIONS "FREE" PHONE 0800 7310222 SUNDAY 10am-4pm

AVALON STRATSTONE PARAMOUNT

[illegible]

MERCEDES AUTHORISED DEALERS

If you're talking *finance*, and they're talking *funny money*, you're not talking Cruickshank.

97P SL500 ****	6T £68,850	97P E320 AVANTGARDE 'A' ***** 3T £37,850
94M SL500 ****	14T £54,500	93K E320 CABRIOLET *** 14T £38,850
93K SL500 ****	25T £46,850	95M E220 CABRIOLET ***** 15T £34,850
90H 500 SL ***	35T £39,850	97R E230 ELEGANCE 'A' **** 3T £32,850
86D 500 SL ****	64T £23,850	97P E230 ELEGANCE 'A' *** 12T £28,850
95P SL320 ****	4T £57,500	97R E280 AVANTGARDE 'A' **** 9T £30,850
95N SL320 ****	12T £53,750	94M E220 COUPE **** 49T £29,850
94M S500 COUPE *****	28T £49,850	93K 320CE 5 SPD 'A' ***** 39T £24,850
94L S500 COUPE ****	26T £45,850	96P E230 EST ELEGANCE *** 15T £31,850
86F 500 SEC ***	34T £22,850	93K 320TE 5 SPD 'A' ***** 45T £24,850
96N S500 LIMO ****	11T £49,850	95N C36 AMG **** 19T £35,850
92K 500 SE ****	53T £26,850	94L C220 'A' AMG **** 33T £29,850

** ENHANCED SPEC. *** LEATHER OR AIR. **** LEATHER AND AIR. ***** TOTAL SPEC [illegible]

talk CRUICKSHANK now!
Tel: (0117) 966 9331 Eves: 0385 998357
7 days a week. 24 hours a day. Nationwide delivery. A Sytner Company

Normand Mercedes London's Finest

90H 500 SL AUTO Met, Leather, chrome	£37950	96P S420 LIMO Metallic. Full spec	£53,950	96N SL60 AMG 'The Ultimate Convertible'	£99950
95N CL 420 AUTO Metallic. Stunning car	£49950	97R S320 LIMO Met. Electric rear seats, Full spec	£52,950	97P SL320 'All weather Coupé'	£59950
95M E320 CAB AUTO Met. Leather, ac AMG	£42950	97P S280 Metallic. ESR, memory seats, door closers	£38,950	97P S280 'Climate controlled luxury'	£37950
94M E220 COUPE AUTO Leather, air con	£24950	94L SL 280 Metallic. Leather, air con, low mileage	£38,950	96P CL420 'Sheer Opulence,' low mileage	£57950
97R E300 DT ELEG EST AUTO Big spec.	£38950	97P V 230 AMBIENT AUTO Metallic. Leather, alloys	£25,950	95N E300 COUPE 'Modern Classic'	£33950
95N E320 EST AUTO Met. Air con, alloys	£28495	94M E280 T Metallic. Leather, air con, ESR	£25,950	97P E300 DT AVGDE 'Diesel economy'	£31950
97P V230 AUTO Park Lane special. 7 seater	£24950	97P E200 ELEG AUTO Metallic. Electric sunroof	£28,950	97P E230 AVGDE 'Elegant styling'	£31950
96N C36 AUTO Metallic. Leather, ac, sunroof.	£37950	97R C280 ELEGANCE AUTO Metallic. Aircon	£33,950	96P E200 AVGDE 'Spacious, stylish'	£28450
97P C200 SPORT AUTO Metallic. Arm rest	£23450	97P C280 SPORT AUTO ESR, folding rear seats	£27,950	95N C280 SPORT CLASSIC 'Fantastic Value'	£21950
97P C180 CLASSIC AUTO Metallic. Arm rest	£19950	97R C280 TD ELEGANCE AUTO Metallic	£27,950	97R C200 KOMP SPORT 'Exhilarating ride'	£29950
97P C180 CLASSIC AUTO Glass S/R, cruise	£19950	96P C200 CLASSIC AUTO Music system, ESR	£18950	97P C280 V6 SPORT 'AMG Bodykit'	£34950
94M C220 DSL ELEG AUTO Met. Alloys. roof	£17495	97P C180 ELEG AUTO Air, cruise, electric windows	£22950	97P SLK 230 Rare, desirable	POA

Park Lane 0171 629 9110 After Hours 0589 731 757
Mercedes Benz
City 0171 236 3745 After Hours 0468 740 588
Park Royal 0181 965 7757 After Hours 0468 746 647

MERCEDES

200TE Estate H reg, white, auto, EW, ESR, 2 owners, excellent, FSH, £9,000. 01438 871705.

220TE '93 K, auto, 7 seats, blue, full spec, ESR, ABS, etc. VGC £12,250. Tel: 01923 855698.

230 CE One owner, FSH, 83,000 miles, F reg. Immaculate condition. £12,998. 0370 722959 / 01952 290830.

280 E auto, June 91, pvt owned, Smoke Silver, FSH, all electrics, s/roof, A/C, l/upholstery etc, etc. £11,750. 01189 343387.

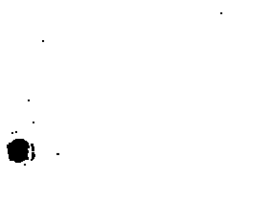
SL500
April 94, Met Blue/Black, black leather, additional wood trim, ADS, AMG alloy wheels, climate control, cd player x 12, telephone, additional security systems, one owner, full service history, 29,000 miles, immaculate. £55,950.
Tel: 01273 833746(home) 0181 3886866 (work) (reg no 50 SL optional @ £4,500)

KINSEY JONES
280SL
94(L) Nautilus/cream leather, rear seat, heated seats, cruise control, alloys, stereo, etc. 28,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner £41,995
0181-761 2221 Open all weekend

Stratstone
Mercedes E320 Avant Garde Auto 1996 P
Green with Grey Hide A/C, AMG Alloys, ESR 2 owners, 15k, £35995
Telephone: 01625 522222

IN-CAR GADGETS
The best electronic gadgets for the man with money
0800 376 9798 FOR BROCHURE

Chairman's Merc... Highest Spec... Loads of Goodies...
S 280 (P reg)
18,500 M. FSH. Onyx grey. New Merc forces sale. Gift £32,995
Tel: 01246 413809 (30, M1)





Out-of-town shopping centres may, ironically, cause traffic jams but on the seventh day they can offer warmth, convenience . . . and somewhere to sit

Sunday's other house of worship

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

This being Valentine's Day, I expect the first thing you will wish to do is to sweep up your true love in your arms, place her — I have trouble visualising this done by a woman — on the passenger seat of the car and whisk her off to the nearest out-of-town shopping centre, there to fill the boot space with a vast collection of indispensable household wares reduced to only twice what they are worth in one of those sales that MUST END SOON but never quite seems to.

If, like me, you have recently moved to new premises, the out-of-town shopping centre will have become a second home. Indeed, you will memorise the route to B&Q, Homebase, Curry's and the like long before you have memorised your new postcode. These great names are the bishops of a new church, the one to which worshippers of retail therapy flock every Sunday, now the busiest shopping day of the week. On the seventh day thou shalt seek interest-free credit.

The popularity of shopping centres is based on a simple fact: one can spend a lot of money in them without having to worry about lugging the goods half a mile to a car that has been clamped. Other reasons are advanced by the retailers and have duly entered the shopping mythology: they claim to have more variety (probably true) and to be cheaper than the high street (on some items).

Certainly their overheads are lower. This week at one superstore I had to lend my mobile telephone to the assistant so that he could contact another branch about a product I wanted. The building, which is roughly the size of Yorkshire, only had two telephone lines, the same amount I have in my house, and both were engaged. As with phone lines, so with checkout staff: there were two working out of six. These places are monuments to Mammon, but you have to queue to give them money.

Of course, they are not just about money; they also have a social function. Just as families once went for a drive to visit Auntie Ethel, now they go for a drive to white-goods theme parks. It would be interesting to know what percentage of visitors buys anything. Lots of people give every impression of having fetched up here because the cinema was full.

After all, megastores are warm, and some even have refreshments. When one tires of standing in front of a computer wondering whether one can get it home before Bill Gates announces that it is obsolete, there is always respite in the nearby furniture emporium, which offers a range of resting options from leaning (imitation wood mantelpieces), to sitting (armchairs), to lying (beds). Furniture stores often have a cafe, too. And should one feel out of touch there is always a branch of Dixons, where one can watch the lunchtime television news in widescreen format.

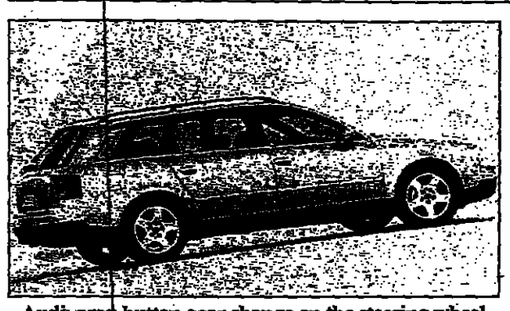
Yes, I am rather warming to these out-of-town centres, even if the buildings look as if they have been hastily adapted by Lego from a cancelled order for aircraft hangars. But shopping centres will not spread much further because Labour has endorsed a decision of the last Tory Government to stem their growth so that inner-city shops can have a crack at survival and the green belt will be under less pressure.

There is also the problem of sheer traffic volume, especially where shopping centres have been placed near motorway interchanges. I have seen traffic queueing for the shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway, off the M5 near Bristol, backed up on to the motorway itself, presenting an obvious danger. Wherein lies the final irony: traffic jams which have made city centres so unattractive to shoppers now threaten to engulf the out-of-town alternative.



NB

SURELY Rover is being far too modest about the Rover 200? Full-page advertisements in the press this week trumpeted the £9,700 price of the car, but then spoilt it all by continuing: "But it's even stranger that other inferior cars seem to cost about the same." Other inferior cars? Meaning the Rover is an inferior car? Oh dear: perhaps now that BMW owns Rover, all the advertising copy is written in Munich. Clearly something got lost in the translation.



Audi: press-button gear change on the steering wheel

AUDI A6 AVANT

Engines: 1.8 Turbo, 2.4 and 2.8 litre V6, 2.7 bi-turbo (available this summer), 1.9 and 2.5 litre V6 turbodiesels.

Performance: 1.8 turbo; 134mph, 34mpg; 2.7 bi-turbo, 150 mph, 26mpg; 2.5TDI, 135mph, 40mpg.

Equipment: ABS, electronic brake-force distribution, electronic differential lock, front and side airbags, powered seat-height adjustment, electronic climate control.

Prices: (on the road) £24,070-£31,779.

A diesel with an F1 feel

Diesel cars are about to get a whole new image: this summer Audi is planning to introduce a steering-wheel-mounted, press-button gear change just like those pioneered by Formula One drivers and currently used by Porsche for its latest 911 and Boxster sports cars, *Stuart Birch writes.*

The Tiptronic system offers a choice of automatic transmission or on-demand clutchless manual changes for those in a hurry. Now it can be specified on the V6 2.5 litre direct-injections diesel-engined Audi A6 TDI saloon and estate — a first for a diesel car.

For drivers who want something more traditional but faintly exotic, the 2.5TDI comes with a six-speed close-ration manual gearbox.

Audi's announcement of the push-button diesel revolution came at the launch of the A6 Avant, the estate version of its individualistic saloon. On sale in mid-April, it is a handsome car that blends the styling of the A6 saloon with the practical lines of a freighter. There is a variety of engines from which to choose, including the new 150bhp diesel which even makes sporty noises.

Audi's performance figures for the 2.5TDI seem almost a conflict in terms. For the six-speed manual they claim a top speed of almost 135mph, 0-60 in less than ten seconds, but an average fuel consumption of 40mph, while the "F1" auto is good for more than 130mph, they say, and shows an average 35mph.

Other engines include a 1.8 litre turbo, 2.4 litre V6, a rapid 2.8 litre V6 — with two or quattro four-wheel drive — and the even more rapid bi-turbo 2.7T quattro with 230bhp and a top speed of more than 150mph. There is also a highly efficient four-cylinder 110bhp turbodiesel.

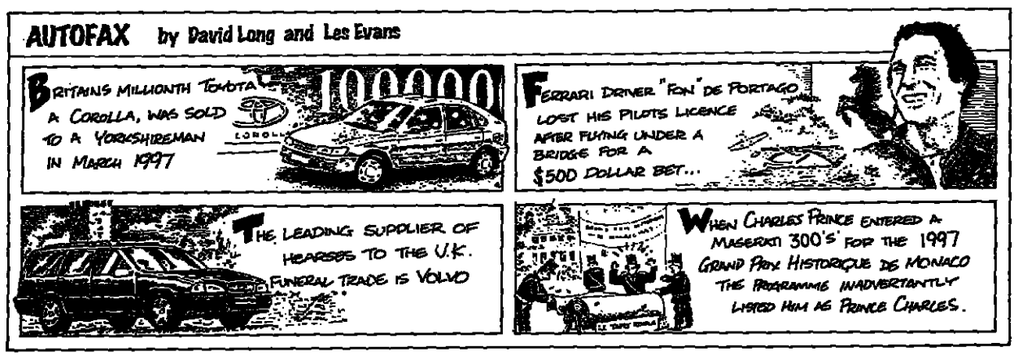
I tried the Avant on winding, undulating roads. Handling was fine, and the ride far better than the saloon, which I find prone to bounce from the rear suspension.

Because the distinctively curved roofline of the saloon did not lend itself to estate-car shape, the Avant has a different roof and a larger windscreen. On one example tried, wind noise was noticeable. A similar length to the A6 saloon, the Avant has a maximum luggage capacity when loaded to the roof of 1,500 litres. Like the BMW 5-series it can be specified with a pull-out platform to facilitate loading. The A6 gets a sophisticated anti-theft system — a sort of "Avant guard".

Audi gives its cars three-year dealer and 12-year anti-corrosion warranties.

Good-looking, oozing quality, technically and aesthetically advanced, the A6 Avant is set for success — with the 2.5TDI bringing a racing change to diesel's sometimes stodgy image.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



REGISTRATION NUMBERS CNDA MEMBERS

THOUSANDS MORE AVAILABLE. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. FREE QUOTES. NO OBLIGATION.

1975 23 YEARS 1998

McMel & Co Ltd PHONE FOR PRICES TEL: 01277 20 40 20

Why should you Buy or Sell your Registration Mark through McMel & Co.....
.....because we were Established in 1975 & have retained our position as London's Leading supplier for 23 years,
.....because we were a FIRST "BUY BACK UNDERTAKING" ,which was pioneered by us and unequalled by others,
.....because we have been member's of the C.N.D.A. for 21 years,& have advertised on these pages for even longer,
.....because prospective purchasers pay NO V.A.T. on our prices, unlike the majority of dealers,
.....because we offer a FREE written quotation on similar registration marks without any obligation what so ever,
.....because we can offer a SOLICITOR Stakeholder service on expensive marks,subject to their small fee,
.....because we offer a "PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE" therefore assuring you of excellent value for money.

FOR A FULL LIST WITH PRICES
DIAL-A-FAX
ON YOUR FAX MACHINE & PRESS "RECEIVE" OR "START"
CALL: 0336 413735
WHEN INDICATED

For Full List With Prices Dial-A-Fax On 0336-413735. Press 'Start' Or Transmit/Rec On Your Fax. Calls cost 50p per Minute. McMel & Co Hunter Hse Sheffield S3 8HL. A Minimum £100 or 10% deposit secures any mark subject to availability and our terms and conditions. Open 9am to 8pm Mon-Sat. 10am to 4pm Sun.

TVR

GRIFFITH 500 (97T), 4,000 miles, metallic grey/magnolia hide, £34,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

GRIFFITH 500 (97T), 4,000 miles, metallic grey/magnolia hide, £34,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

TVR WANTED

WANTED all low mileage TVR's. Please contact Charles Eyston, Mole Valley. 0181 394 1114.

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO VR6 1996 N, Mer Black, Grey hide, Warranty 1999, nlsam, 32K, £17,950. (01422) 885458 W/ 824963 H

CORRADO

VR6 Storm. First reg August 95. One owner, 60,000 miles, full dealer service history, leather interior, green metallic bodywork. Alloy wheels, immaculate condition. £15,995.

Tel: 0385 537190.

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO VR6 1994, L reg, Racing Green, leather seats, 37k, £24,250. Tel: 0141 357 0785.

EXCELLENT Savings, Audi, VW Polo, Sharan, Golf Est, BMW / Merc also avail. Tel / Fax: AIS 01582 650678

GOLF Avantgarde Cabriolet, auto, 94M, Classic green met/black p/hood C.D. 31K mls, 1 owner, superb condition. £14,450. Tel:01926 8429587

GOLF Clipper Cabriolet K reg 52,000 miles only FSH power hood white best available anywhere £7,995 01204 844697 T

GOLF 5 door VR6, Jan 96, 16K mls, 1 lady owner, leather a/c, immobiliser, FVWSH, Twilight violet. £16,950. 01392 832196.

GOLF GTi 3 dr, N 95, Silver, 23,000 mls, sun/r, 10 CD £12,500. 0181 5061948.

GOLF Gti, 97R, Aircon, s/r, met. blk, 7k, 1 lady driver, like new. £13,995. 01202 764000.

GOLF VR6, 95 M, 3 door, Chilli red, black leather, alloys, nice a/c, Quigh three months 2 owner, FSH, 25k mls, VW F/C alarm, mint, 5 yr warr. £15,000. Tel: 01923 773391

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF GTi 16V, 3 dr, June 95, grey met, alarm, s/r, sunroof, exterior, Dan conver, £11,995ono. Tel: 01703 228656 or 07000 228656(w/e)

POLO open air 1.4 L, 1996P, 8500mls, Black Met, alloys, 5 year warr, just serviced. £8,250. Tel: 01708 850733.

SAVINGS on brand new Volkswagen Polo's, Passat & Personal imports 01480 812239 T

VOLKSWAGEN

SHARAN 2.0 Auto, 1 owner, 1 lady driver, 1 keeper, 1 year old, 7 seats, 20k, Mercury Red, Full Spec, 17K, £15,995. 01892 724000

SHARAN GL VR6, Sky Blue, Full Spec, 17K

SHARAN GL, Red, 7 Seats, 32K

PASSAT 1.9 TDi 110BHP Estate, New Model, Many Extras

GOLF GL, Auto, Choice of 4 Metallic Paint

GOLF 1.6 GL, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6

GOLF 1.4L, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6

POLO 1.0L, 3 Door and 5 Doors, Metallic Paint, Choice of 12

GOLF GL Automatic, Mystic, Electric Sunroof, 15K, Full Spec

GOLF 1.4 SE, 3 Door, White, Full Spec

GOLF GL Auto, Windsor, 58K, Full Spec

POLO 1.4 GL, 5 Door, Dragon Green, Sunroof

GOLF DRIVER, 3 Door, Diamond Black, 20K, Full Spec

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO Storm '95 N, green, FSH, full spec, immaculate £19,500. 0802 256044.

EXCELLENT Savings, Audi, VW Polo, Sharan, Golf Est, BMW / Merc also avail. Tel / Fax: AIS 01582 650678

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN 1998

Tremendous Savings On New RHD Models

Sharan 2.0 Basic + A/C. Twin air bags £16,216
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP. Basic As Above £16,464
Sharan 2.8 V6 Comfortline £18,587
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Comfortline £17,271
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Trendline £17,875

Please Call For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

SCOTTS

97R Golf VR6 Auto 5dr 3.2ltr Satin Silver, black leather w/seats, climate, a/sfroof, traction, abs, ew, sec, tints, lowered susps, 20inbp bbs rs 16" s/w, 21,500mls £22,995

97P Golf VR6 Highline 5dr. Diamond Black, black leather, a/sfroof, climate, abs, airbags, ew, traction, cd/, alarm, alloys, s/w, twin lights, 15,600mls . £21,650

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Mystic Blue, black leather w/seats, climate, abs, traction, airbags, a/sfroof, cd/, alarm, alloys, s/w, twin lights, 15,600mls . £21,650

97R Golf VR6 5dr. Diamond Black, beige leather sport seats, xenons, traction, abs, tiptronic, ew, heated seats, cdm, cd, bbs alloy wheels, 4,800mls £28,995

97R Golf VR6 5dr Auto. Storm Grey, black cloth w/seats, airbags, a/sfroof, ew/a, vfd/seats, sec, abs, alarm, alloys, 1,100mls £28,995

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Brilliant Black, recaro w/seats, traction, abs, pas, a/sfroof, vfd/seats, immobiliser, sec, bbs s/w, 690mls £26,495

97P Golf VR6 5dr. Dragon Green, black cloth w/seats, a/sfroof, airbags, ew/s, abc, s/w, sec, cd/changer, cd/1, immobiliser, bbs alloy wheels, 6,480mls.. £18,995

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Dragon Green, anthracite interior, air con, abs, a/sfroof, traction, airbags, sec, ew/windows, cdc, cdm, bbs alloys, 12,900mls £18,495

97P Golf GTI 16V 3dr. Mystic Blue, black cloth w/seats, airbag, abs, traction, airbag, c/windows, cdc, a/sfcdome, cdm, 3rd b/light, sunroof, s/w, 7,160mls £16,995

97P Golf GTI 8V 3dr. Anniversary. Diamond Black, sports seats, abs, airbags, a/sfroof, cdm, cdc, ptx, c/windows, cd/1, 16" bbs alloys, 13,000mls £15,295

MANY MORE AVAILABLE

0171 730 2131
0171 737 7133

VOLKSWAGEN

Volkswagen at Dovercourt.

BATTERSEA

95M GOLF VR6, 5 Door, Dragon Green, 44000 miles, Alloys, Sunroof, 1 Owner
95R POLO 1.4 CL, 3 Door, Dragon Green, 12,000 miles, CD/Locking, E/Windows
94L GOLF DRIVER 1.8, 3 Door, Tornado Red, 39,500 miles, E/Sunroof, Alloys, FSH
94L PASSAT 2.0 GL ESTATE Silver Grey, 32,000 miles, E/Sunroof, FSH, Airbags
97P GOLF GTi 16V COLOUR CONCEPT, 5 Door, Pasta Red, A/C, S/roof, 900 miles
96P GOLF AVANTGARDE, Classic Green, 13,000 miles, Air Con, 1 Owner
97P PASSAT 1.9 TD SE SALOON, Metallic Grey, 8,000 miles, 1 Owner
97P GOLF GL 1.8 Auto, 5 Door, Diamond Black, 12,000 miles, 1 Owner
97R GOLF 1.6 GL, 5 Door, Dragon Green, 6,000 miles, E/S/R, Alloys, 1 Owner
97P PASSAT 1.6 SE, Royal Green, Air Con, 10,000 miles, 1 Owner
97P GOLF GTi, 5 Door, Dragon Green, 3,000 miles, CD Player, Sunroof, 1 Owner
97P GOLF GTi, 3 Door, 18,000 miles, Pasta Red, Air Con, 1 Owner

ST JOHNS WOOD

96P SHARAN 2.0SE, Auto, Mercury Red, Full Spec, 17K
95N SHARAN GL VR6, Sky Blue, Full Spec, 17K
95N SHARAN GL, Red, 7 Seats, 32K
97R PASSAT 1.9 TDi 110BHP Estate, New Model, Many Extras
97P GOLF GL, Auto, Choice of 4 Metallic Paint
97P GOLF 1.6 GL, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6
97P GOLF 1.4L, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6
97P POLO 1.0L, 3 Door and 5 Doors, Metallic Paint, Choice of 12
97P GOLF GL Automatic, Mystic, Electric Sunroof, 15K, Full Spec
96N GOLF 1.4 SE, 3 Door, White, Full Spec
95M GOLF GL Auto, Windsor, 58K, Full Spec
97P POLO 1.4 GL, 5 Door, Dragon Green, Sunroof
97P GOLF DRIVER, 3 Door, Diamond Black, 20K, Full Spec

Dovercourt

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS

Drive in luxury all year round!
Arrive at that special occasion in style!
The most competitive rates! Weekend specials!

HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110
Open Sunday 11 - 4

TVR

GRIFFITH 500 (97T), 4,000 miles, metallic grey/magnolia hide, £34,500. Graypaul 01509 232233.

TVR WANTED

WANTED all low mileage TVR's. Please contact Charles Eyston, Mole Valley. 0181 394 1114.

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO VR6 1996 N, Mer Black, Grey hide, Warranty 1999, nlsam, 32K, £17,950. (01422) 885458 W/ 824963 H

CORRADO

VR6 Storm. First reg August 95. One owner, 60,000 miles, full dealer service history, leather interior, green metallic bodywork. Alloy wheels, immaculate condition. £15,995.

Tel: 0385 537190.

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO VR6 1994, L reg, Racing Green, leather seats, 37k, £24,250. Tel: 0141 357 0785.

EXCELLENT Savings, Audi, VW Polo, Sharan, Golf Est, BMW / Merc also avail. Tel / Fax: AIS 01582 650678

GOLF Avantgarde Cabriolet, auto, 94M, Classic green met/black p/hood C.D. 31K mls, 1 owner, superb condition. £14,450. Tel:01926 8429587

GOLF Clipper Cabriolet K reg 52,000 miles only FSH power hood white best available anywhere £7,995 01204 844697 T

GOLF 5 door VR6, Jan 96, 16K mls, 1 lady owner, leather a/c, immobiliser, FVWSH, Twilight violet. £16,950. 01392 832196.

GOLF GTi 3 dr, N 95, Silver, 23,000 mls, sun/r, 10 CD £12,500. 0181 5061948.

GOLF Gti, 97R, Aircon, s/r, met. blk, 7k, 1 lady driver, like new. £13,995. 01202 764000.

GOLF VR6, 95 M, 3 door, Chilli red, black leather, alloys, nice a/c, Quigh three months 2 owner, FSH, 25k mls, VW F/C alarm, mint, 5 yr warr. £15,000. Tel: 01923 773391

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF GTi 16V, 3 dr, June 95, grey met, alarm, s/r, sunroof, exterior, Dan conver, £11,995ono. Tel: 01703 228656 or 07000 228656(w/e)

POLO open air 1.4 L, 1996P, 8500mls, Black Met, alloys, 5 year warr, just serviced. £8,250. Tel: 01708 850733.

SAVINGS on brand new Volkswagen Polo's, Passat & Personal imports 01480 812239 T

VOLKSWAGEN

SHARAN 2.0 Auto, 1 owner, 1 lady driver, 1 keeper, 1 year old, 7 seats, 20k, Mercury Red, Full Spec, 17K, £15,995. 01892 724000

SHARAN GL VR6, Sky Blue, Full Spec, 17K

SHARAN GL, Red, 7 Seats, 32K

PASSAT 1.9 TDi 110BHP Estate, New Model, Many Extras

GOLF GL, Auto, Choice of 4 Metallic Paint

GOLF 1.6 GL, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6

GOLF 1.4L, 5 Door, Metallic Paint, Choice of 6

POLO 1.0L, 3 Door and 5 Doors, Metallic Paint, Choice of 12

GOLF GL Automatic, Mystic, Electric Sunroof, 15K, Full Spec

GOLF 1.4 SE, 3 Door, White, Full Spec

GOLF GL Auto, Windsor, 58K, Full Spec

POLO 1.4 GL, 5 Door, Dragon Green, Sunroof

GOLF DRIVER, 3 Door, Diamond Black, 20K, Full Spec

VOLKSWAGEN

CORRADO Storm '95 N, green, FSH, full spec, immaculate £19,500. 0802 256044.

EXCELLENT Savings, Audi, VW Polo, Sharan, Golf Est, BMW / Merc also avail. Tel / Fax: AIS 01582 650678

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN 1998

Tremendous Savings On New RHD Models

Sharan 2.0 Basic + A/C. Twin air bags £16,216
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP. Basic As Above £16,464
Sharan 2.8 V6 Comfortline £18,587
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Comfortline £17,271
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Trendline £17,875

Please Call For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

SCOTTS

97R Golf VR6 Auto 5dr 3.2ltr Satin Silver, black leather w/seats, climate, a/sfroof, traction, abs, ew, sec, tints, lowered susps, 20inbp bbs rs 16" s/w, 21,500mls £22,995

97P Golf VR6 Highline 5dr. Diamond Black, black leather, a/sfroof, climate, abs, airbags, ew, traction, cd/, alarm, alloys, s/w, twin lights, 15,600mls . £21,650

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Mystic Blue, black leather w/seats, climate, abs, traction, airbags, a/sfroof, cd/, alarm, alloys, s/w, twin lights, 15,600mls . £21,650

97R Golf VR6 5dr. Diamond Black, beige leather sport seats, xenons, traction, abs, tiptronic, ew, heated seats, cdm, cd, bbs alloy wheels, 4,800mls £28,995

97R Golf VR6 5dr Auto. Storm Grey, black cloth w/seats, airbags, a/sfroof, ew/a, vfd/seats, sec, abs, alarm, alloys, 1,100mls £28,995

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Brilliant Black, recaro w/seats, traction, abs, pas, a/sfroof, vfd/seats, immobiliser, sec, bbs s/w, 690mls £26,495

97P Golf VR6 5dr. Dragon Green, black cloth w/seats, a/sfroof, airbags, ew/s, abc, s/w, sec, cd/changer, cd/1, immobiliser, bbs alloy wheels, 6,480mls.. £18,995

97R Golf VR6 3dr. Dragon Green, anthracite interior, air con, abs, a/sfroof, traction, airbags, sec, ew/windows, cdc, cdm, bbs alloys, 12,900mls £18,495

97P Golf GTI 16V 3dr. Mystic Blue, black cloth w/seats, airbag, abs, traction, airbag, c/windows, cdc, a/sfcdome, cdm, 3rd b/light, sunroof, s/w, 7,160mls £16,995

97P Golf GTI 8V 3dr. Anniversary. Diamond Black, sports seats, abs, airbags, a/sfroof, cdm, cdc, ptx, c/windows, cd/1, 16" bbs alloys, 13,000mls £15,295

MANY MORE AVAILABLE

0171 730 2131
0171 737 7133

VOLVO AUTHORISED

VOLVO
APPROVED USED CARS

850 T5

95M 850 T5 GLE Auto Estate, Silver, Leather, E.C.C £17,995
95M 850 T5 GLT Auto Estate, Flame Red £17,995
94M 850 T5 SE Auto Estate, Light Gold Metallic £17,995
95M 850 T5 GLE Auto Estate, Nautic Blue, Leather, E.C.C £18,495
95M 850 T5 GLE Auto Estate, Silver Metallic, Leather, E.C.C £19,995
97P 850 T5 Auto Estate, 5 Pack, White, Air Conditioning £19,995
96P 850 T5 GLT Manual Estate, Black, Estate Pack £23,995

850 SERIES

96N 850 R Manual Estate, Dark Grey Metallic, 51,000 Mls £21,650

S70 & V70

97R S70 T5 CD Auto, Black, Monza Trim £26,995
97R V70 R AWD Auto Estate, Silver £36,995
97R S70 T5 CD Auto, Dark Olive Green £27,995

LEX DEALERS

406-412 London Road, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1BL. Tel: 0118 9267831

VOLVO — Approved Used Cars — WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF USED VOLVOS IN STOCK, SHOWN IN THE PICTURE, YOU DESERVE NOT BE LUCKY! CALL ONE OF OUR SALES DEALERS FOR OUR LATEST A VOLVO SERVICE AND ASK FOR MARTIN, LEE OR ANDREW

VOLKSWAGEN

GTI 16V, 3 dr, June 95, grey met, alarm, s/r, sunroof, exterior, Dan conver, £11,995ono. Tel: 01703 228656 or 07000 228656(w/e)

POLO open air 1.4 L, 1996P, 8500mls, Black Met, alloys, 5 year warr, just serviced. £8,250. Tel: 01708 850733.

SAVINGS on brand new Volkswagen Polo's, Passat & Personal imports 01480 812239 T

VOLVO AUTHORISED

VOLVO
APPROVED USED CARS

S40

97R S40 1.8 GLE Auto £16,995
97R S40 1.8 GLE A/C Auto £15,995
97R 2.0 GLT Auto £14,995

V40

97R 1.8 CD A/C £15,495
97R 1.8 CD Auto £14,995
97R 1.8 SE S/Pack £15,495

KNIGHTS
01322 337 000 Nationwide Delivery

VOLVO

APPROVED USED CARS

S70

97R 2.5 TDi Auto, Immobiliser £19,595
95M GLT 2.5 20v Est, Auto/con £13,495
95M GLT 2.5 10v Est, Auto £14,995
97P GLT 2.0 Sal, Auto/con £15,995
96N GLT 2.5 20v Est, Auto, S/Pack £18,450
96P SE 2.5 10v Est, Auto £17,995
97P SE 2.5 10v Est, A/C £17,995
96P GLT 2.5 20v Est, Auto £18,995
96P GLT 2.5 Est, Auto/con £19,995
97P CD 2.5 20v Est, Auto £22,995

V70

97P SE 2.5 10v, Auto, P/Airbag £18,495

V90

97P SE 2.5 10v, Auto £20,995
97P SE 2.5 20v, Auto, Win Pl £21,995
97P SE TDi Auto £22,495
97R SE 2.5 20v Auto £22,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Win Pl £26,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Ext Pack & Win Pl £28,995
97R R Est, Auto, Dolby Surround £32,995

S40/V40

97R V40 CD Auto £20,995
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £13,495
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £14,495
97P 2.3 Classic Auto £14,995

940

94M 2.3i Man, Estate £13,995
96P 2.0 CD Auto £16,495
97R 1.6 SE S/R £14,995

960

97R 2.5i Man, Estate £16,495
97R 2.5 CD Auto £16,495
97R 2.5 SE S/Pack, Est Demo £16,495

KNIGHTS
01322 337 000 Nationwide Delivery

VOLVO

APPROVED USED CARS

S70

97R A WD Auto Lux Pack £28,995
97R T5 CD Auto £27,995
97P 2.5 SE Auto £26,995
97P 2.5 SE Man £19,995

V70

97P SE 2.5 10v Auto £20,995

V90

97P Diesel GLT Auto £21,995
97P 2.5 SE Man £19,995
97P 2.5 SE Man, A/C £20,995
97P 2.5 SE Auto £22,995
97P 2.5 SE 20v Man £19,495

S40/V40

96N TS GLT Man £17,995

940/960

97R V60 CD Auto £28,995
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £18,495
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £16,495
97P 2.3 Classic Auto £14,995

940

97P SE 9.0, 204 BHP, Auto £23,495
97P CD Lux, Estate, Aut, Auto £25,995

960

94M CD 3.0 Saloon, Auto £14,995
96P CD 3.0 Est, Auto £22,995

TAMPLINS OF CROYDON
Nationwide Delivery
Tel: 0181 688 2028
Open 7 Days - Sun 10am - 4pm
WWW.TAMPLINS.CO.UK

VOLVO

APPROVED USED CARS

S70

97R A WD Auto Lux Pack £28,995
97R T5 CD Auto £27,995
97P 2.5 SE Auto £26,995
97P 2.5 SE Man £19,995

V70

97P SE 2.5 10v, Auto £20,995
97P SE 2.5 20v, Auto, Win Pl £21,995
97P SE TDi Auto £22,495
97R SE 2.5 20v Auto £22,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Win Pl £26,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Ext Pack & Win Pl £28,995
97R R Est, Auto, Dolby Surround £32,995

S40/V40

97R V60 CD Auto £28,995
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £18,495
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £16,495
97P 2.3 Classic Auto £14,995

940

97P SE 9.0, 204 BHP, Auto £23,495
97P CD Lux, Estate, Aut, Auto £25,995

960

94M CD 3.0 Saloon, Auto £14,995
96P CD 3.0 Est, Auto £22,995

TAMPLINS OF CROYDON
Nationwide Delivery
Tel: 0181 688 2028
Open 7 Days - Sun 10am - 4pm

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

VOLVO VOLVO VOLVO

Tremendous Savings On New 1998 RHD Models
SOME EXAMPLES

Volvo S40 2.0 Base £13,446
Volvo V40 2.0 Base £14,120
Volvo S40 2.0 CD £17,277
Volvo V40 TD CD £18,232
Volvo V40 T4 CD £21,093
Volvo V70 2.6 10V Base £18,797
Volvo V70 2.5 T SE £23,285
Volvo V70 TDi SE £22,084
Volvo V70 T5 Base £22,488
Volvo V70 R £29,845

All Other Models & Specifications Available.
Call Now For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

VOLVO

APPROVED USED CARS

S70

97R A WD Auto Lux Pack £28,995
97R T5 CD Auto £27,995
97P 2.5 SE Auto £26,995
97P 2.5 SE Man £19,995

V70

97P SE 2.5 10v, Auto £20,995
97P SE 2.5 20v, Auto, Win Pl £21,995
97P SE TDi Auto £22,495
97R SE 2.5 20v Auto £22,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Win Pl £26,995
97R CD 2.5T Auto, Ext Pack & Win Pl £28,995
97R R Est, Auto, Dolby Surround £32,995

S40/V40

97R V60 CD Auto £28,995
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £18,495
97R 2.3 LPT Man, A/C £16,495
97P 2.3 Classic Auto £14,995

940

97P SE 9.0, 204 BHP, Auto £23,495
97P CD Lux, Estate, Aut, Auto £25,995

960

94M CD 3.0 Saloon, Auto £14,995
96P CD 3.0 Est, Auto £22,995

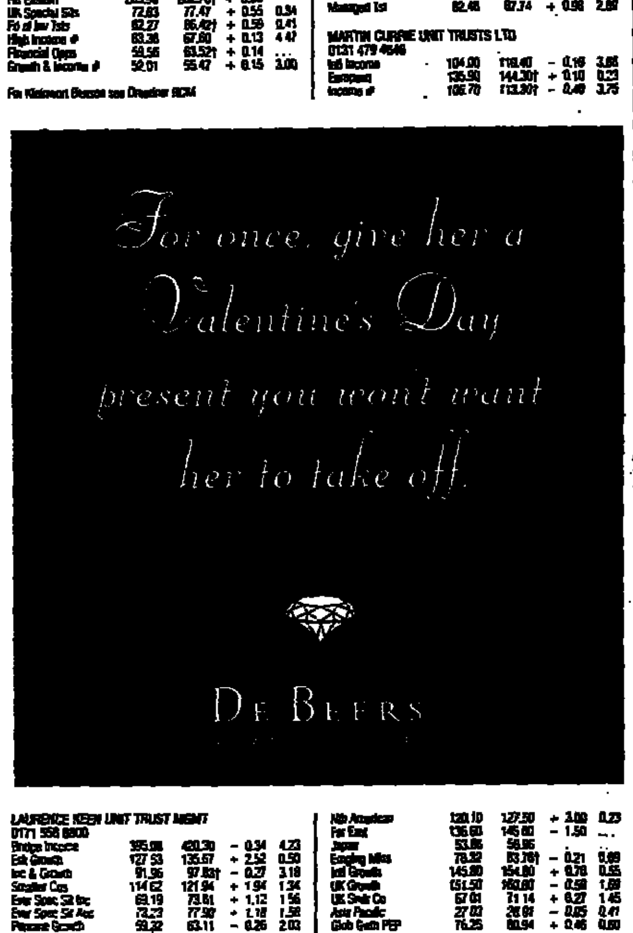
TAMPLINS OF CROYDON
Nationwide Delivery
Tel: 0181 688 2028
Open 7 Days - Sun 10am - 4pm
WWW.TAMPLINS.CO.UK

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST PRICES

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	140.12	149.31	+ 0.58	
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.56	134.56		
UK Equity Safeguard	110.97	118.83	- 0.50	2.47
Do NAV to Mar 20	105.85	105.85		
Cash	952.05	956.81†	- 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Sm	403.50	427.70	+ 2.00	1.65
UK Small Cos	85.56	91.52	+ 1.12	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	103.27	110.43	+ 1.57	2.11
Geared UK Index	2570.83	2713.95	-11.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	83.76	87.11	+ 0.71	
Monthly Inc	43.63	45.68†	+ 0.37	6.72
International Funds				
American Gen	312.70	332.00	+ 8.80	
American Smlr	243.35	260.26	+ 5.43	
JG US Index	2467.85	2600.23	+53.00	4.00
European Gen	357.20	377.90	+ 5.70	0.68
European Smlr	150.42	160.86	+ 2.47	
Japan Gen	110.80	117.30	+ 0.70	
Asia Pacific	65.70	69.78	+ 0.34	1.06
Pacific Smlr	105.15	112.45†	+ 1.52	
Greater China	198.61	212.40	+ 9.09	..
Latin America	104.88	112.18†	+ 3.86	..
Int Growth	171.50	180.84	- 2.90	
Balanced Exempt	160.30	166.26		2.29
Global Strategy	46.41	49.63	+ 0.49	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	899.70	957.10	+ 1.18	2.37
General Inc	733.70	780.00	+ 0.95	2.37
UK Growth Acc	621.00	660.80	+ 1.00	2.35
UK Growth Inc	392.60	417.60	+ 0.63	2.35
Higher Inc Acc #	1154.00	1227.00	- 1.00	4.45
Higher Inc Inc #	592.70	630.00	- 0.78	4.45
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	237.70	251.00	+ 1.80	5.49
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	99.01	104.50	+ 0.70	5.49
Nth America	453.10	482.00	+14.00	
Europe	488.10	519.20	+ 0.19	0.54
Brit Excell	123.50	131.30	+ 0.70	2.30
Brit Fxdnxth Acc	154.80	164.40	+ 0.58	4.23
Brit Fxdnxth Inc	99.08	105.40	- 0.20	4.23
Global Opps	118.60	126.10	+ 0.60	0.24
Balanced Acc	77.17	82.09	+ 0.24	2.25
Balanced Inc	70.61	75.11	+ 0.23	2.25
Japan Acc	35.76	38.06	- 0.22	
Pac Basin Acc	283.60	301.60	- 3.40	2.21
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	146.80	155.70	- 1.90	5.74
High Inc Equity	232.70	248.90†	- 0.60	4.05
Worldwide Bond	274.10	290.70†	+ 1.50	3.45
American Growth	938.20	987.69†	+14.10	0.27
Asian Pacific	214.90	229.80	- 1.50	0.54
Assets & Earnings	371.80	395.80	- 0.40	2.57
Euro Capital Acc	257.50	275.40	- 1.60	0.72
Extra Inc	42.78	45.51†	..	9.14
General	338.40	360.00†	- 2.20	2.73
Global Opps	78.86	83.89	+ 0.02	0.38
Japan	81.70	87.38	+ 0.80	
Managed Inc	53.99	57.44†	- 0.03	4.44
Mastertrust	193.80	207.42	+ 0.40	1.07
US Emerging Cos	225.10	240.70	+ 6.90	
Ethical	97.20	103.40	- 1.00	1.77
International	146.50	155.80	+ 0.60	0.58
Dividend & Growth	85.41	90.86†	- 0.36	3.78
Global Gwth & Sec	79.03	84.46	+ 0.56	2.39
Latin America	74.97	79.75	+ 1.06	0.64
Capital Reserve	155.10	155.20	+ 0.40	4.50
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	120.90	128.60	+ 0.50	1.97
Equity Income #	169.80	180.60	+ 0.10	3.56
Extra Income #	320.10	339.60	+ 1.00	4.46
Smaller Cos	104.00	110.60		1.89
International	137.10	145.80	+ 0.30	0.80
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 868 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	393.00	414.80	+ 6.50	
Emrg Mkts Inc	59.35	62.81†	+ 0.12	
Ethical Inc	89.93	95.15	+ 0.66	0.57
Euro Gwth Acc	124.80	131.70		0.18
Euro Spec Opps Acc	128.20	128.30	+ 1.00	
Extra Inc Inc	232.30	245.20	+ 2.00	3.89
Extra Inc Acc	317.80	335.40	+ 2.70	3.89
FE Emg Econ	79.35	83.98†	- 0.74	0.48
Fixed Int Inc #	28.50	29.91†	+ 0.25	7.79
Frontier Mk Inc	73.48	77.74	- 0.16	0.38
Fund Of Inv Inc #	203.73	215.58†	+ 1.34	9.06
Fund Of Inv Acc	431.59	456.70	+ 2.82	9.06
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.32	53.49	- 0.22	6.59
Global Bond Inc	41.65	43.45	+ 0.17	4.61
Global Inc Inc	31.97	33.65†	+ 0.31	4.93
Global Inc Acc	49.14	51.72	+ 0.48	4.93
High Inc Inc	175.90	186.10	+ 1.40	3.58
High Inc Acc	233.50	247.00	+ 1.90	3.58
Japan Inc	149.16	157.78†	- 2.46	
Latin Amer Inc	65.49	69.30†	+ 1.02	
Master Inc Inc	63.51	67.20†	- 0.02	2.73
Master Gwth Inc	59.19	62.63	+ 0.55	0.30
North Amer Inc	274.50	288.80	+ 6.80	
North Amer Acc	274.80	289.09	+ 6.90	
Pacific Inc	58.33	61.72	- 0.70	0.09
Prop Share Inc	97.73	103.41†	+ 0.47	1.36
Recovery Inc	109.70	116.10	+ 0.60	2.01
Recovery Acc	123.50	130.70	+ 0.70	2.01
Special Sit Inc	177.10	187.30	+ 2.90	1.47
Special Sit Acc	200.60	212.20	+ 3.49	1.47
Tech Inc	830.90	876.80	+22.40	
Tech Acc	830.90	876.80	+22.40	
UK Blue Chip Inc	119.40	126.00	+ 0.10	2.43
UK Blue Chip Acc	143.00	150.90	+ 0.10	2.43
UK Emrg Co Inc	78.87	85.26†	+ 0.19	0.85
UK Gwth Inc	73.73	77.59	- 0.43	1.13
World Port Inc #	93.54	98.97	+ 0.57	2.11
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2516.00	2617.00	+16.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 238 5858				
Recall Property #	107.90	114.70†		5.00
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	111.74	118.58	- 0.84	1.67
Income Builder Inc	101.02	107.47	+ 0.22	3.06
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Crendd Oal Pens	147.80	153.50		
Foundn Pens Pers	84.57	87.86		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	472.80	501.70	+15.00	
Bond	124.50	130.80†	+ 1.30	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	113.30	120.50†	+ 0.70	1.90
Europe	376.40	393.20	- 0.20	
Euro Smlr Cos	131.50	139.90	+ 1.30	0.20
High Income #	71.44	76.00†	+ 0.23	5.44
Income	435.70	463.50	+ 4.70	3.96
Japan	287.30	304.50	- 5.30	
Latin American	104.40	111.10	+ 1.80	
Pacific	75.45	80.27	- 0.11	1.25
UK Smlr Cos	64.36	68.47†	+ 0.52	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	505.40	521.20†	+ 1.80	
Mngd Fd	254.30	269.90	+ 1.50	2.44
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Bd & Dcasc	446.50	472.20	+ 4.60	0.74
Capital Gwth	170.60	180.40	- 1.50	2.34
Wrlds Opps	247.30	261.50	+ 2.40	0.85
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.70	100.70†	+ 0.10	6.84
Cash Acc	132.40	132.40	+ 0.20	6.84
Income #	741.40	790.80†	+ 1.90	3.80
Income Builder #	86.37	91.98	+ 0.37	4.36
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	114.50	121.80	- 0.10	2.03
500	543.80	584.80	+ 2.90	1.98
General	435.50	465.60	+ 0.30	1.53
Property	270.60	290.30	+ 1.00	5.60
Trustee	302.70	322.10†	- 0.20	1.52
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	194.30	207.70†	+ 0.30	1.53
FTSE 100	141.70	150.40	- 0.30	1.57
Growth Acc	613.80	652.90	- 2.40	1.29
Smaller Cos	63.69	67.92	+ 0.27	2.20
Smaller Cos Acc	76.70	81.82	+ 0.34	2.20
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	249.80	263.80	+ 8.40	0.02
American Growth	172.90	183.00	+ 4.20	
Japan	102.80	108.50	- 0.30	
Japan Acc	103.90	109.70	- 0.30	
Japan Spec Sit	46.97	49.70	+ 0.09	
Worldwide	226.10	240.00	+ 0.70	0.91
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.40	52.13	+ 0.54	7.10
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	49.39	52.38	+ 0.25	4.50
Managed Growth	49.56	52.82	+ 0.03	0.50
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Enquiries 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	133.60	134.30	+ 0.50	4.87
Equity Income #	180.30	192.30	+ 0.20	4.03
Gilt & Fxd Int	64.76	67.04	+ 0.69	6.83
Intl Fxd Int	100.20	103.50†	+ 0.50	4.37
Intl Fxd Int Acc	129.80	134.10	+ 0.60	4.97
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	559.00	594.70		1.51
UK Growth Acc	559.00	594.70		1.51
Growth & Inc	570.40	606.80	- 0.90	1.45
Growth & Inc Acc	1234	1313	- 2.00	1.49
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	255.00	269.80	- 0.90	0.53
Euro Growth Acc	279.20	295.50	- 0.90	0.53
Far Eastern Gwth	114.70	122.10	- 0.80	1.61
Far East Gth Acc	194.90	207.30	- 1.50	1.61
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	197.50	208.50	+ 5.60	
Amer Smlr Cos	176.50	187.80	+ 4.30	
Eastern	164.10	176.10	- 3.60	0.50
Equity Income #	131.80	140.40†	- 0.10	4.00
European Growth	532.10	564.40	+ 1.00	0.80
Europa	454.20	485.00	+ 2.60	0.60
German Growth	109.60	116.20	+ 0.20	0.50
Global Bond	75.21	79.11†	+ 0.73	4.90
Global Growth	190.10	201.70	+ 3.20	0.10
Japan Growth	129.60	137.20	- 4.30	
Japan Smaller	90.89	96.22	- 1.29	
Korea Trust	26.19	28.42	- 3.41	
Portfolio	186.70	198.80	+ 1.20	2.00
-do- Accum	360.50	384.00	+ 2.30	2.00
UK Growth	147.40	157.30		1.60
UK Smaller Cos	135.80	147.30	+ 1.70	1.00
Select Managers	99.60	106.40	+ 0.28	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	109.50	115.80†	+ 1.10	
Special Oppor Inc	61.86	65.81†	+ 0.09	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 8020				
Balanced Growth	194.17	202.26	- 3.45	0.93
-do- Accum	229.69	239.26	- 4.08	0.93
Smaller Cos	191.21	199.18	+ 0.71	0.27
Higher Yield #	74.82	77.94†	+ 0.02	3.21
American Gth Inc	140.75	146.61	+ 3.06	
European Growth	215.47	224.44	+ 2.77	
-do- Accum	220.08	229.25	- 2.16	
Mngd Fixd Inc	62.23	64.83	+ 0.37	1.36
-do- Accum	65.22	67.94	+ 0.35	1.26
Intl Spec Opps	204.02	212.52	+ 1.93	
Pacific Gth	104.55	108.91	- 3.74	0.45
UK General #	131.37	136.84†	+ 1.40	2.59
-do- Accum #	146.50	152.61	- 1.57	2.59
Japan	40.38	42.06†	+ 0.09	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	110.01	114.63†	- 0.33	7.04
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	57.61	58.47	+ 0.15	6.10
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	227.50	239.50	+ 0.40	1.41
UK Growth	286.60	301.60†	- 0.20	1.71
UK Income	202.10	212.70	+ 0.10	3.20
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	292.20	309.70†	+ 1.50	1.10
-do- Income Dist	165.70	175.60	+ 1.00	2.88
-do- Accum	559.20	592.70	+ 3.80	2.88
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.97	46.13†	+ 0.44	4.98
Growth Units	349.00	372.60	+ 1.50	1.55
Bond	194.90	205.10	+ 2.30	5.60
Intl Growth	240.00	256.10	+ 1.30	0.28
North American	347.20	369.20	+12.50	
Far East	190.30	203.50	- 6.10	1.04
UK Smaller Cos	275.90	295.10	+ 1.30	0.96
European	121.90	127.30	- 0.20	0.50
Japanese Growth	30.27	32.09	- 0.42	
High Income	289.80	308.40	+ 1.70	2.77
Eurogrowth Plus	208.88	222.21	+ 1.88	0.11
Portfolio	100.50	106.82	+ 0.39	1.12
UK Income Inc	125.52	133.63	+ 0.07	3.54
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	307.70	325.30	+ 8.10	
European Inc	130.40	138.30	+ 0.60	0.24
Smaller Cos (4-1)	118.00	125.60	+ 1.90	1.73
Growth	729.80	766.90	+ 3.70	1.78
Income & Growth #	805.10	843.80†	- 0.10	3.97
-do- Accum #	983.40	1024.90	- 0.20	3.97
Japan & Gen	51.28	54.31	- 0.37	
Hallmark Gwth	1564.00	1630.00†	+11.00	1.40
-do- Accum	1958.00	2051.80	+15.00	1.40
Special Sits	165.80	176.40†	+ 0.60	1.79
High Yield	1971.00	2082.00	+ 1.00	3.45
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	119.15	126.70†	+ 0.48	2.20
American Portfolio	172.63	183.02	+ 3.74	0.44
European Portfolio	177.14	188.31	- 0.43	0.34
High Income	56.32	58.28†	+ 0.07	8.47
Japanese Portfolio	49.46	52.45†	+ 0.13	
Pacific Portfolio	115.66	124.37	- 0.78	1.14
UK Equity	121.26	129.36	+ 0.34	2.76
UK Equity & Bd	71.15	75.37	+ 0.47	5.06
UK Smll Cos	57.52	61.62	+ 0.19	1.97
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	999.17	1014.27	+ 8.74	3.42
Inv Fd Acc	1033.33	1049.85	+ 6.97	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	187.54	188.22	+ 0.12	7.81
Fxd Int Sec Acc	179.13	179.85	+ 0.13	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	976.07	992.85	+ 7.80	3.51
Investment Acc	4749.84	4821.62	+37.86	
Fixed Int Inc	136.28	136.82	+ 1.19	7.60
Fixed Int Acc	276.64	277.74	+ 2.43	8.58
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	100.78	105.95	+ 0.47	5.83
Buck Bio-Tech	42.22	45.54	+ 2.45	
Accm Ethical Fd	216.80	230.64	- 1.22	0.54
City Fin Assets	89.29	93.76	+ 0.83	2.81
City Fin Intl	90.85	96.44	+ 2.72	
Friars Hse Cap	394.65	419.84†	+ 3.31	2.24
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12		
Snow Utilities	87.34	86.96	- 0.28	3.37
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	48.62	51.59†	- 0.46	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	106.66	113.47	+ 3.58	
Dragon Growth	44.72	47.82	- 0.39	1.36
Equity High Inc	123.70	130.89	- 0.07	2.80
-do- Accum	186.71	197.57	- 0.10	2.80
Extra Income Inc	29.27	30.61†	+ 0.27	5.70
Extra Income Acc	34.46	36.28	+ 0.32	5.70
European Gwth	88.50	93.65	+ 0.40	
Evergreen	36.87	39.43	+ 0.25	
General Equity	142.24	150.12	+ 0.16	1.61
Japan Growth	33.18	35.30	- 0.99	
Pedigree Gwth	87.96	93.07	+ 0.70	1.19
Ped Sm-Cos Inc	44.29	46.87	+ 0.14	1.30
-do- Accum	47.69	50.47	+ 0.16	1.30
Retirement Inc #	35.76	38.04	- 0.04	4.65
Special Sits	59.88	64.39	+ 1.03	1.97
UK & Overseas	72.36	76.57	+ 0.46	0.26
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	84.76	88.29†	+ 0.35	3.39
Capital	105.97	110.38†	+ 0.39	1.80
High Income	57.35	59.73†	+ 0.60	5.35
Top 50	79.11	82.40†	+ 0.18	1.77
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	247.02	257.34	- 0.11	3.94
Long Gilt	52.24	54.39†	+ 0.91	4.95
Monthly Inc Plus	61.00	63.55	+ 0.77	7.05
Preference Share	59.09	61.56†	+ 0.96	6.33
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	174.63	181.93†	+ 0.21	5.30
Managed Fund	89.58	93.32	+ 0.15	2.27
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.99	58.25	+ 0.25	1.51
-do- Accum	64.56	67.26	+ 0.29	1.51
UK & General	132.73	138.27	+ 0.10	1.96
-do- Accum	177.87	185.30	+ 0.15	1.96
UK Growth	263.38	274.39	+ 0.09	1.42
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	290.82	302.76	- 0.47	0.44
Far Eastern Grth	96.58	100.61	- 1.10	0.26
Global Bond	73.10	76.15	+ 0.31	5.00
Japan Growth	89.38	93.09	- 1.43	
North Amer Gth	327.80	341.49	+ 8.61	
Oriental Growth	56.71	59.08	- 0.59	0.83
Worldwide Growth	86.04	89.63	+ 0.60	0.29
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.27	93.27	+ 0.10	6.73
Homemaker Fund	107.82	114.71†	+ 0.03	1.96
Gilts Fund	183.71	195.44†	+ 0.80	1.95
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	44.73	47.77†	- 0.30	2.70
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	208.10	222.40	- 1.10	1.42
Income	91.92	97.88†	- 0.60	3.59
European Growth	100.50	108.60	- 0.21	0.27
Recovery	231.10	245.90	+ 6.20	1.79
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9404				
Equity Dist	1203.20	1230.90†	..	3.89
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	90.25	95.72†	- 0.24	0.33
Fellowship Tst	130.60	138.60	- 0.40	1.07
Income #	381.90	403.00	- 2.80	3.61
-do- Accum #	1001.60	1064.80	+ 1.82	3.81
Smaller Cos	250.09	265.90†	- 1.80	0.70
-do- Accum	313.40	333.40	- 2.20	0.70
Gth Portfolio	128.50	134.50†	- 0.90	1.17
Mthly Inc Port #	108.70	114.90	+ 0.39	3.63
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1834				
Global Sm Cos	1909.50	1995.00†	+59.00	0.68
UK Small Cos	2357.70	2454.60†	+ 8.90	3.80
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	261.70	269.80	+ 2.50	
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers:0171 956 7354 Client Helpline:0800 317573				
Formerly RBUT				
Amer Smlr Cos	209.50	219.60	+ 8.40	
Asian Growth	185.20	197.00	- 1.80	0.31
Bond Income	111.30	115.20	+ 1.10	6.50
European	253.20	269.30	+ 3.20	0.48
European Prtv	132.50	140.90†	+ 0.50	0.33
European Special	178.00	187.20	- 2.69	
Gilt Yield	131.50	136.70	+ 1.60	6.11
Global Eqy Inc	144.20	153.00†	+ 0.49	1.48
High Yield	215.30	230.10†	+ 1.40	4.02
Japan	309.00	327.00	+ 1.10	
Japanese Special	138.10	146.90	- 1.50	
Money Market	103.36	103.36†	+ 0.10	6.19
North American	151.40	160.90	+ 4.90	
Smaller Cos	167.90	178.60	- 0.50	0.91
Smlr Cos Div	70.15	74.62†	+ 0.10	4.05
Tomorrows Co Ex	1254.00	1272.00	+ 2.00	0.12
UK Equity Growth	64.81	68.94†	- 0.07	0.53
UK Index Inc	449.90	452.10	- 0.80	2.64
Beckman Tst	121.70	130.80	+ 5.80	1.54
Global Income	263.90	280.70†	+ 1.40	2.85
Formerly Thornton				
Eastern	436.50	457.10	+ 5.10	0.75
Europe Bd	39.44	41.00	+ 0.03	6.44
Europa	917.20	954.40†	+ 2.20	2.41
Global Em Mkts	75.55	79.10	+ 0.85	0.59
Japan Tst	65.43	68.51	-257.39	
Little Dragons	70.03	73.39	- 0.03	
Nth Amer Gwth	418.80	438.10†	+18.90	0.37
Oriental Income #	37.05	38.79	- 0.21	4.80
Preference	155.10	162.40	- 1.80	7.32
Tiger	190.60	199.60	- 1.00	
UK Blue Chip	116.10	121.50†	+ 0.10	1.24
UK Growth	875.00	916.20	- 1.50	0.73
UK High Yield #	156.40	163.80†	+ 0.40	4.20
UK Mid-Cap	408.80	428.00	- 3.00	1.41
UK Smr Cos Div #	90.53	94.79†	- 0.52	5.80
UK Smlr Cos	149.90	156.90	+ 1.20	0.70
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	25.61	27.21	+ 0.22	5.15
European	126.90	134.50	+ 1.30	1.66
Equity Income #	185.60	197.20	- 0.70	3.25
European	81.41	86.13†	- 0.72	
Financial	79.03	83.97	- 0.03	1.19
Growth & Inc #	379.60	403.30†	- 0.50	2.17
High Dist #	237.40	252.20	- 0.10	2.37
International	457.70	486.30	- 1.50	
Intl Cap Inc	123.70	132.00†	+ 0.80	2.05
Latin American	35.13	37.33	+ 0.31	
Mgd Gwth Port	104.70	109.40†	+ 1.10	0.64
Pacific	65.40	70.55	- 0.62	
Pref High Inc	26.78	28.45†	+ 0.33	8.39
Tokyo	154.10	162.90	- 0.37	
UK Smaller Cos	283.60	301.30	+ 5.60	1.16
Japan Sm Cos	256.60	271.60	+ 0.40	
Nth Amer	566.10	598.50	+15.50	
UP Inc & Grth	345.10	367.60	- 1.90	2.18
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	128.50	136.85	- 0.09	0.94
Growth Acc	333.17	354.81	+ 3.23	0.19
Income	685.40	732.72†		4.24
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	264.20	281.10	+ 2.90	0.90
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	123.78	130.29	- 0.99	1.34
Ethical Tst	56.97	59.97†	+ 0.29	1.05
Far Eastern	224.96	236.80	- 0.52	1.90
High Income	186.34	196.15	- 0.11	3.63
UK Index Trckng	71.27	75.02†	- 0.53	2.20
Intl Growth	143.81	151.77	- 0.18	1.27
North American	204.74	215.52	+ 5.47	1.34
Pelican	191.57	201.65	- 0.99	2.42
Smaller Cos	80.37	84.60	+ 1.76	2.12
Special Sits	96.24	101.31	+ 0.47	2.92
Tst of Inv Tsts	246.15	259.11†	+ 1.59	1.62
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	160.65	170.66	+ 2.15	
Fd of Inv Tsts	63.09	66.94†	+ 0.38	0.43
High Income #	47.65	50.52†	+ 0.04	9.90
Wart & Cl Opps	59.93	63.37	+ 0.31	
Zero Preference	50.36	53.43	+ 0.24	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	128.90	137.10†	- 0.10	1.98
United Charities	368.50	392.00	- 1.00	2.24
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.90
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.48	27.44†	+ 0.13	4.61
Strategic Inc	31.39	32.79	- 0.28	5.18
Income Funds				
High Income	33.00	34.67†	+ 0.17	4.54
Income Plus	184.10	195.80	+ 0.40	3.55
European Income	65.45	70.35†	- 0.20	1.29
Moneybuilder Gwth	43.22	45.53	+ 0.14	2.16
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	28.71	30.83	- 1.14	
American	454.90	483.00	+13.80	
Amer Spec Sits	242.90	258.80	+ 7.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	19.17	20.37	- 0.08	
European	313.20	333.10	- 0.60	0.32
European Opps	118.50	125.80	+ 0.30	0.45
Global Priv	49.98	53.08	+ 0.13	0.28
UK Growth	165.90	176.50	- 0.10	1.10
Growth & Inc	244.10	259.80	+ 1.80	2.37
Intl PEP	63.91	67.98	+ 0.46	1.01
Japan Spec Sit	61.13	64.82†	- 0.85	
Japan	152.50	161.40	- 2.80	
Managed Intl	452.70	480.70	+ 5.10	0.56
Moneybuilder Pls	81.40	81.98	+ 1.00	0.32
Recovery	70.79	75.27	+ 0.68	1.81
South E Asia	146.70	156.20	+ 0.20	1.34
Special Sits	957.40	1018.00	+ 9.00	1.11
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	123.66	123.66	+ 0.13	6.80
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	177.10	179.00	+ 2.80	1.55
Fleming Prf Inc #	114.10	115.00	+ 0.80	5.30
Cap Prfolo	201.30	202.50†	+ 2.80	
General Opps	178.80	178.10	+ 1.70	3.09
Growth Inc	50.68	51.21	- 0.20	1.06
Private Portfolio	603.60	609.70	+ 9.00	1.03
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 359				
Euro Smlr Cos	185.60	197.20	- 0.98	
High Income	23.30	24.68†	- 0.01	9.12
Japan Smlr Cos	12.48	13.26	- 0.05	
US Smaller Cos	569.00	605.20	+ 7.90	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	112.30	118.90	+ 3.60	
-do- Accum	112.30	118.90	+ 3.60	
Amer Smlr Cos	814.00	865.80	+16.70	
-do- Accum	831.50	884.60	+17.20	
Capital Tst	433.00	460.60	+ 0.90	1.26
-do- Accum	644.70	685.90	+ 1.60	1.26
Cont Smlr Cos	70.77	75.49	+ 0.33	
-do- Accum	75.94	81.00	+ 0.34	
Convertible	149.90	159.50†	+ 0.50	5.03
-do- Accum	348.50	370.70†	+ 1.00	5.03
Emerging Markets	58.75	62.77	+ 2.08	0.07
-do- Accum	59.26	63.31	+ 2.09	0.07
European	207.50	212.70	- 0.80	
-do- Accum	220.60	233.60	- 0.80	
Extra Income	498.80	530.60†	+ 0.80	3.99
-do- Accum	830.80	883.80†	+ 1.40	3.99
Financial	262.60	278.70	+ 3.00	0.94
-do- Accum	280.70	298.60	+ 3.30	0.94
Gilt Trust	65.18	67.18	+ 0.35	7.04
-do- Accum	107.30	110.60	+ 0.50	7.04
Health Fund Inc	301.50	320.70	+ 7.70	
-do- Accum	301.50	320.70	+ 7.70	
Income & Growth	291.10	309.70	+ 1.40	3.77
-do- Accum	485.60	518.60	+ 2.30	3.77
Intl Growth	491.80	520.00	+ 3.90	
-do- Accum	548.10	580.70	+ 4.30	
Japan & Gen	128.09	135.70	- 0.80	
-do- Accum	129.30	137.10	- 0.80	
Monthly Inc #	253.00	269.10†	+ 0.19	3.98
-do- Accum #	265.20	282.10†	+ 1.60	3.98
Managed Port Inc	140.10	147.50	+ 2.70	1.21
-do- Accum	154.10	162.20	+ 2.90	1.21
Quarterly Income #	66.56	71.04†	- 0.74	5.17
-do- Accum #	81.29	86.78†	- 0.21	5.17
Recovery	317.60	339.70†	+ 3.40	
-do- Accum	375.00	401.10†	+ 4.10	
UK Growth	80.12	85.23	+ 0.21	1.25
-do- Accum	88.52	94.17	+ 0.23	1.25
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715605 Enq 01722 715824				
FP American	85.78	91.17	+ 2.29	
FP Am Smlr Cos	224.20	239.10	+ 3.70	
FP Asian Growth	165.60	178.68	- 4.40	
FP Australian	433.90	462.80	+ 0.40	
FP Equity Dist	601.60	641.70	+ 0.80	1.64
-do- Accum	1374.00	1465.00	+ 2.00	1.64
FP Euro Gth	408.67	433.79	- 4.60	
-do- Accum	443.50	475.10	- 4.40	
FP Intl Bond	57.50	60.84†	+ 0.20	3.89
FP Intl Gth Dist	45.94	48.00	+ 0.13	
-do- Accum	67.73	72.24	+ 0.20	
FP Pac Basin Acc	172.30	183.70	- 2.50	0.19
FP Income #	76.00	81.06	- 0.04	4.09
-do- Accum #	283.00	301.80	- 0.10	4.09
FP Jap Smlr Cos	180.50	192.50	+ 0.78	
FP Monthly Dist #	90.45	96.48†	+ 0.18	4.59
FP Stlg Deposit	100.70	100.70†	+ 0.28	6.36
FP Tokyo	66.94	71.40	- 1.25	
FP UK Focus	56.35	60.10	+ 0.21	1.20
FP UK Growth	264.49	282.00†		1.18
-do- Accum	548.20	584.70	+ 0.10	1.18
Stewardship Dist	504.50	538.20	+ 1.50	1.25
-do- Accum	649.30	689.30	+ 1.90	1.25
Stewardship Inc Dist #	80.97	86.36	+ 0.22	5.04
-do- Accum #	119.10	127.00	+ 0.49	5.04
N Am Stshp Dist	167.10	178.10	+ 5.10	
-do- Accum	179.80	191.70	+ 5.50	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Inc #	134.20	134.80†	- 0.60	2.42
Inst Ethical Acc #	137.50	138.10	- 0.60	2.42
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	155.50	165.40	+ 0.70	0.52
Opm Cap Gth Acc	153.50	163.20	+ 1.10	0.18
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	138.70	147.50†	+ 0.50	2.49
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	152.80	161.80	+ 0.80	2.49
Opm Cp Gth Ic Ic #	142.70	151.80†	+ 0.50	3.26
Opm Cp Gth Ic Ac #	159.10	169.20	+ 0.50	3.26
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GAMDA	394.10	414.80	- 0.70	1.68
Cash	49.32	50.08†	+ 0.03	6.35
Income Portfolio	89.04	93.73†	+ 0.39	2.53
GA Equity Gth	297.10	316.10	+ 1.50	1.17
GA European Gth	177.90	189.40	- 1.50	
GA Japan Gth	81.86	86.96	- 0.58	
GA Nth Amer Gth	320.80	340.80	+11.80	
GA Intl Gth	146.80	155.90	+ 1.10	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 606 8431				
American Smlr Cos	272.20	291.10	+ 3.60	0.11
European Inc	932.60	990.20	+ 2.00	0.48
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	62.21	65.85	+ 0.05	3.21
-do- Accum	72.62	76.87	+ 0.06	3.21
High Yield #	54.91	58.02†	+ 0.62	6.80
-do- Accum #	66.32	70.08	+ 1.00	6.80
Income Inc	244.50	261.50	+ 0.50	3.40
-do- Accum	288.80	308.50	+ 0.70	3.40
Intl Growth	426.40	451.50	+ 2.60	0.27
Intl Income	125.40	132.80†	+ 2.20	1.92
Japan Growth	394.50	417.60	+ 1.70	
Orient Acc	139.70	149.18	- 1.50	0.20
UK General Inc	248.20	265.10†	+ 0.50	1.15
UK General Acc	450.70	481.20	+ 1.30	1.15
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	75.04	80.26	+ 1.26	1.45
US Growth	260.30	275.30	+ 6.20	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	81.06	86.47†	- 0.19	1.57
Practical Inv Inc #	147.88	158.17	+ 1.38	3.04
-do- Accum #	367.87	393.44	+ 3.43	3.04
UK Index	228.13	240.33	+ 0.22	2.48
UK Smaller Cos	267.16	285.77	+ 3.13	0.24
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.42	27.38	+ 0.11	8.89
High Income	45.75	48.81†	+ 0.49	3.34
UK Growth & Inc	208.35	222.26†	+ 1.53	2.32
Global Bond	27.95	28.97†	+ 0.10	5.25
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	42.86	45.63	- 0.03	
Global Managed	165.38	175.47	+ 1.82	1.08
Gold & Intl Res	80.46	86.05	- 1.62	
Global Utilities	196.61	209.31†	- 0.08	0.23
Overseas Funds				
American	287.35	302.80	+ 7.80	0.40
European	180.92	192.13	+ 0.11	0.28
Euro Sel Opps	295.31	313.84†	+ 0.60	
Amer Emerging	219.17	233.00	+ 4.47	
Hong Kong	123.97	132.51	- 3.06	2.51
Japan	154.14	163.26	- 2.99	
Pacific Growth	149.59	160.46	- 0.83	0.57
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	155.88	155.88†	+ 0.16	6.81
Managed Equity	307.37	307.37†	+ 1.91	1.35
Long Term Bal	325.73	325.73†	+ 2.02	2.60
Med Term Bal	268.88	268.88†	+ 1.60	2.64
UK Equity	385.24	385.24	+ 3.54	1.67
UK Emerging Cos	199.04	199.04	+ 0.79	2.01
American	447.98	447.98	+10.99	0.16
Japan	94.32	94.32	- 1.00	
European	470.07	470.07	- 0.97	0.51
Index Linked Gilt	214.70	214.70	+ 1.53	3.46
Fixed Interest	209.12	209.12†	+ 2.13	8.61
Amer Emerges	484.84	484.84	+ 7.84	
Pacific	132.67	132.67	+ 0.42	1.43
Emerging Mkts	127.21	127.21†	+ 5.14	0.71
Index Strat Japan	102.92	102.92†	- 0.26	0.35
-do- Pacific Rim	123.07	123.07†	- 2.27	2.33
-do- Cont Europe	257.48	257.48†	- 0.28	1.85
Index Strat USA	276.74	276.74†	+ 7.27	1.03
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	145.46	154.73	- 0.82	
Med Term Bal	127.86	136.02	- 0.22	
Long Term Bal	147.23	156.83	+ 0.97	
UK Equity	184.93	196.73	+ 2.17	
UK Emerging Cos	91.12	96.94	- 2.76	
American	208.41	221.71	+ 5.46	
Japan	45.15	48.02	- 0.52	
European	196.04	208.54	- 0.45	
Fixed Interest	108.57	115.49	+ 1.17	
Index Linked Gilt	95.91	102.02	+ 0.78	
Deposit	94.34	100.36	+ 0.10	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BRRH Intl	174.68	183.87	+ 1.85	0.46
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc ‡	800.29		-12.41	
-do- Accum ‡	908.41		-14.09	
European Gth Inc ‡	221.71		- 0.47	0.23
Amalgam Inc	191.95	202.54	+ 2.94	
N Amer Gwth Inc ‡	566.42		+15.36	
Far East Gth Inc ‡	256.20		- 1.88	0.52
-do- Accum ‡	267.39		- 1.98	0.46
UK Divid Inc ‡	232.65		+ 1.83	0.93
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 6668				
European	756.80	807.40	- 4.30	
Gilt & Fixed	146.60	155.50	+ 1.50	4.91
Growth Equity	533.10	569.50	- 3.00	1.02
Income Trust	195.90	209.30	- 0.20	3.40
International	234.40	250.40	+ 1.60	
Japan Trust	94.60	101.00†	- 1.40	
Nth American	471.00	503.20	+14.20	
Pacific	362.50	387.30	- 8.90	0.81
Guardhill	770.70	821.30	- 2.40	1.02
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	93.09	102.61	+ 0.56	4.44
Global High Inc	95.64	99.25†	+ 0.65	4.91
Stlg Bond Pfio	116.79	121.21	+ 1.34	5.59
Cash Mgd Pfio	132.88	140.52†	+ 1.57	4.18
European Pfio	171.05	181.87	- 1.02	
World Mkt Pfio	87.67	93.22	+ 0.59	0.17
UK Eq Inc Pfio	185.86	197.60†	+ 0.46	2.82
-do- Accum	286.35	304.47	+ 0.69	2.82
UK Opps	530.40	564.20	- 7.70	2.16
-do- Accum	847.80	888.70	+ 9.40	2.16
Gl Vinc High Inc	155.14	157.46	+ 1.49	5.20
UK Emerg Cos	293.70	312.30	- 1.10	3.24
Inst UK Sm Co	366.50	393.30†	+ 2.10	3.87
Glob Prev Tst	147.98	157.34	+ 0.43	1.26
-do- Accum	154.78	164.57	+ 0.45	1.35
Inc Share Tst	118.92	126.45	+ 0.61	6.85
HK & China Tst	73.52	78.16	- 3.54	1.78
Blue Chip Pfio	320.69	340.87	- 0.66	1.73
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611190				
Balanced Inc	69.75	73.98†	+ 0.07	2.63
Balanced Acc	77.03	81.68	- 0.09	2.63
Growth	43.68	46.32†	- 0.04	1.39
Growth Acc	45.17	48.95	- 0.04	1.39
Income	41.08	43.54†	- 0.27	3.50
Income Acc	45.42	48.52	- 0.30	3.50
Accumulation Tst	36.95	40.03	- 0.05	2.45
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquires: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Pdf Acc	56.90	60.37	- 0.40	2.52
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 484646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	460.05	492.24	+ 9.53	
Bes of Britain	93.11	98.37	+ 0.17	1.31
UK Smaller Cos	179.41	192.83†	+ 1.77	0.27
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	400.76	426.80	- 0.64	2.34
-do- Accum #	1180.11	1254.80	- 0.73	2.34
High Income	434.84	464.62†	- 0.90	3.41
Extra Income #	364.52	388.08	+ 0.48	4.90
Pref & Bond	57.35	60.42†	+ 0.40	6.98
International				
Ethical	151.71	162.25†	- 1.26	1.10
International	367.67	389.07	+ 4.05	
Global Bond	54.08	56.96	+ 0.38	5.89
Intl Port Tst	117.33	125.37	+ 0.15	0.25
Global Tech	303.12	322.99	+10.71	
Overseas Funds				
Asean Enterprise	148.31	158.95	- 1.98	0.82
European	844.15	894.77	- 1.36	0.07
European Income #	119.47	126.59†	- 1.21	2.72
Euro Smlr Cos	224.19	239.86	+ 2.31	0.02
European Value	117.90	125.92	- 0.08	
-do- Accum	127.32	135.98	- 0.09	
Japan Trust	136.42	146.82†	+ 0.12	
Japan Smlr Cos	120.54	128.14	+ 2.81	
Pacific Smlr Cos	171.04	182.22	+ 0.45	
North American	450.06	475.85†	+15.92	
American Smaller	241.94	257.11	+ 7.13	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 530052				
British	169.73	177.73	+ 0.27	1.35
Capital	250.15	261.94†	+ 0.81	1.00
Dollar	685.76	718.10	+23.92	
Enterprise Gth	559.23	585.59	+ 2.82	0.63
European	364.63	381.81	+ 0.64	
Far East	193.04	202.13	- 0.86	0.65
Financial	1555.89	1629.20	+ 7.04	1.06
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.05	30.21†	+ 0.28	5.65
High Yield #	148.45	155.45	+ 0.17	3.76
Income & Growth #	221.30	231.73	+ 0.51	2.68
International	341.39	357.95	+ 3.60	0.81
Japanese General	151.45	158.58	- 2.00	
Japan Tech	66.17	69.29†	- 0.88	
Nat Resources	68.51	73.36	+ 0.34	1.31
Portfolio	103.19	108.05	+ 0.54	2.13
Special Sits	268.76	279.33	+ 0.94	0.49
UK Emerging Cos	138.18	144.69	+ 0.72	1.12
US Smaller Cos	197.40	206.70	+ 4.99	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	844.10	900.90†	- 1.20	4.79
UK Growth	930.10	990.80	+ 6.00	1.19
High Income #	152.70	162.30†	+ 0.60	5.53
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	842.50	890.20	+21.40	
European Gwth	214.90	226.40†	+ 0.30	
Japan Gwth	226.50	240.60	- 3.70	
Japan Smllr Cos	20.46	21.84†	+ 0.08	
Asian	37.35	39.87†	- 0.87	1.06
Sing & Malay Gwth	40.67	43.62	- 1.94	
Hong Kong Gwth	142.50	152.00	- 1.90	0.68
Global Bond	20.98	22.12†	+ 0.16	5.11
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	223.90	225.00†	+ 0.40	2.38
Tiber Index	142.80	149.50	+ 1.00	3.28
THE FOOTSIE FUND	91.83	92.29	- 0.03	1.52
Index Funds-International				
American Index	416.50	418.80†	+11.10	0.49
Eurotrack 100	265.30	266.90†	- 0.30	0.69
Japan Index	55.10	55.38†	- 0.07	0.23
Tiger Index	98.19	101.40	- 3.20	1.52
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	52.82	54.96†	- 1.17	1.86
General Funds				
Managed Dist	101.90	105.40	+ 0.80	1.04
Managed	109.10	112.80	+ 0.92	1.84
Repeat Child Fnd	145.00	151.20	+ 1.00	1.26
UK Growth	90.75	94.79	+ 0.39	1.39
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	112.60	117.80†	+ 1.30	4.60
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.48	30.46†	+ 0.24	7.17
UK Inc & Gwth	63.73	66.58	+ 0.58	2.30
UK Income #	493.60	513.50	+ 5.90	3.32
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	80.57	83.38	+ 1.86	
Amer Smlr Cos	198.90	209.20	+ 3.20	
-do- Accum	202.00	210.40	+ 3.20	
Europa Gth	321.50	334.90	- 1.90	
-do- Accum	333.10	346.90	- 1.90	
Euro Smaller Cos	56.69	59.82	+ 1.44	
French Growth	117.90	122.30†	- 0.10	0.51
-do- Accum	127.80	132.40†	- 0.10	0.51
H Kong & China	95.97	100.00†	- 1.10	1.39
Intl Growth	80.33	83.59	+ 0.75	0.47
-do- Accum	81.97	85.29	+ 0.77	0.47
Japan Gth	21.16	22.05	- 0.22	
-do- Accum	21.16	22.05	- 0.22	
Japan Smaller Cos	20.96	21.88	+ 0.07	
Glob Emg Mkts	87.18	91.03	+ 0.27	0.04
-do- Accum	87.78	91.66	+ 0.29	0.04
SE Asia	199.20	208.10	- 5.70	1.08
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	50.71	52.28	+ 0.45	5.70
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	145.60	154.10	+ 0.20	2.65
UK Growth	151.60	160.40	+ 0.90	1.32
Euro Growth	124.60	131.90	- 0.20	1.69
Slater Gwth	254.80	269.60	+ 3.90	0.75
New Japan	65.38	68.44	- 0.77	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	180.70	192.10†	+ 3.60	
Income #	278.32	296.08†	+ 1.95	3.79
UK Growth	105.64	112.38†	+ 0.91	2.05
Intl Growth	101.63	108.10†	+ 0.68	0.41
Ecology	119.48	127.10	+ 0.54	0.68
European	271.64	288.62†	+ 0.19	0.45
Far Eastern	265.90	282.70†	+ 0.80	
UK Special Sits	72.83	77.47	+ 0.55	0.34
Fd of Inv Tsts	82.27	86.42†	+ 0.59	0.41
High Income #	63.36	67.60	+ 0.13	4.47
Financial Opps	59.56	63.32†	+ 0.14	
Growth & Income #	52.01	55.47	+ 0.15	3.00

For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM



	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 558 6800				
Bridge Income	395.08	420.30	- 0.34	4.23
Erk Growth	127.53	135.67	+ 2.52	0.50
Inc & Growth	91.96	97.83†	- 0.27	3.18
Smaller Cos	114.62	121.94	+ 1.94	1.34
Ewr Spec Sit Inc	69.19	73.61	+ 1.12	1.56
Ewr Spec Sit Acc	73.23	77.90	+ 1.18	1.58
Pincent Growth	59.32	63.11	- 0.26	2.03
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	577.90	611.10†	- 3.70	1.42
UK Inc/Gth #	617.10	654.70†	+ 2.90	2.53
UK Income #	430.30	458.50†	+ 3.60	4.13
UK Income Acc #	438.50	465.20†	+ 3.70	4.05
UK Sm Cos	336.30	358.20	- 7.90	1.82
Euro Gwth	206.70	218.80	- 0.48	0.25
N Amer Gwth	162.10	171.30	+ 4.90	
Pacific Growth	6.47	6.80	- 0.11	0.21
Emg Mkts Gwth	67.56	71.68	- 0.27	
Japan Growth	46.84	49.49	- 0.15	
Dealing: 01277 843526				
Gwth Port Inc	84.97	89.86	+ 0.16	0.59
Gwth Port Acc	86.80	91.79	+ 0.16	0.58
Inc Port Inc	79.86	84.45†	- 0.28	3.23
Inc Port Acc	92.37	97.67†	- 0.48	3.10
Wrwde Port	65.57	69.34	+ 1.05	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 800512				
Equity Dist (3)	786.70	786.70		1.84
-do- Accum (3)	1663.00	1663.00		1.84
Equity Income #	129.30	129.30†	- 0.70	4.35
UK Tactical Alloctn @	90.42	90.42†	- 0.12	5.18
European (2)	194.90	194.90†	+ 0.10	0.05
Far Eastern @	183.50	183.50	- 4.30	
Fixed Interest @	60.44	60.44†	+ 0.70	7.06
Gilt (3)	101.00	101.00†	+ 1.03	5.71
Global Growth @	88.01	88.01	+ 0.15	9.23
Intl Bond @	48.91	49.91†	+ 0.39	5.01
Japanese @	55.38	55.38†	- 0.38	
North American (3)	206.90	206.90†	+ 8.70	0.07
Pacific Growth @	78.42	78.42	- 0.58	0.89
Pacific Index (3)	32.24	32.24†	- 0.30	3.04
UK Index @	103.00	103.00†	+ 0.20	2.35
UK Recovery @	144.30	144.30	+ 0.80	1.38
UK Smaller Cos @	192.20	192.20	+ 0.40	1.07
US Index (3)	121.00	121.00†	+ 0.40	0.64
European Index @	123.80	123.80†		0.84
Japan Index @	28.14	28.14	- 0.13	0.04
Worldwide @	118.00	118.00†	+ 0.20	1.21
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	75.49	79.65	+ 0.44	1.93
Income	87.10	93.15†	- 0.12	3.53
Far East	30.77	32.90	- 0.40	
North American	172.60	184.00†	- 5.00	
Global	98.28	105.10†	+ 1.00	0.34
European	139.50	148.70	+ 1.70	0.54
Japan	66.72	71.25	- 0.34	
Intl Currency Bd	57.20	60.61	+ 0.31	4.88
SE Asia	59.33	63.45	- 0.95	0.68
UK Cap Growth	131.70	140.80		1.85
Recovery Trust	101.60	108.60	- 0.00	2.50
Managed	79.52	85.04	- 0.19	1.53
Cash	50.19	50.19†	+ 0.06	6.75
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	549.50	583.80	- 0.50	1.70
-do- Accum	1133.00	1419.00	- 2.00	1.70
Conv Extra Gth	102.30	107.70	- 0.20	0.08
-do- Accum	110.60	116.70	- 0.20	0.08
Extra Inc #	383.70	408.30	+ 0.10	3.08
Extra Inc Acc #	1104.00	1175.00		3.08
FTSE 100 Inc	177.10	182.10	- 0.30	1.87
FTSE 100 Acc	182.30	194.00	- 1.40	1.87
German Gth	170.40	180.90	- 2.30	0.09
-do- Accum	188.20	199.20	- 2.40	0.08
Growth Port	833.50	886.80	+ 0.50	0.21
-do- Accum	877.90	934.00	+ 0.50	0.21
High Interest Inc	112.70	116.80	+ 1.10	6.42
High Interest Acc	128.60	133.10	+ 1.30	6.42
Hi Reserve Inc #	130.70	139.10	+ 0.40	4.80
Hi Reserve Acc #	151.00	160.70	+ 0.50	4.80
Income Inc #	755.90	804.20	- 0.30	2.60
Income Acc #	2223.00	2365.00	- 1.00	2.60
Income Port	710.90	756.30†	- 2.90	3.52
-do- Accum	839.70	892.30	- 3.00	3.52
Japan Growth	78.39	83.40	- 1.01	
-do- Accum	78.68	83.63	- 1.02	
Master Trust	82.03	87.27	+ 0.28	1.14
-do- Accum	96.35	102.50	+ 0.30	1.14
Midsometer Acc	126.00	134.10		1.77
N American Gth	340.50	362.30	+11.30	0.50
-do- Accum	384.10	413.30	+13.10	0.50
NAm Sm Co Inc	240.60	258.00	+ 9.00	
-do- Accum	245.80	261.30	+ 8.00	
Pacific Basin	160.10	170.40†	- 2.80	0.77
-do- Accum	172.50	180.60	- 3.00	0.77
Safety First Acc	119.80	128.20	- 0.40	1.35
[illegible]	169.20			
Small Cos Inc	561.80	591.40	-12.80	2.00
-do- Accum	788.60	830.40	-18.00	2.00
UK Eq Gth	222.40	236.80	- 0.20	1.96
UK Eq Inc #	176.40	187.70	- 0.10	3.17
UK Growth	141.70	150.80†	- 0.10	1.30
-do- Accum	181.70	193.30	- 0.20	1.30
Worldwide Gth	425.30	452.50	+ 2.30	0.33
-do- Accum	629.80	669.80	+ 5.00	0.33
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	143.22	153.68	+ 0.17	2.20
Income	97.35	104.45	+ 0.08	3.80
International	83.20	88.26	+ 0.73	0.30
Tst of Inv Tsts	89.64	95.10	+ 0.68	1.08
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	671.30	708.50†	+13.20	0.48
-do- Accum	843.20	890.10†	+16.60	0.48
Amer Recovery	824.30	871.70	+35.20	0.25
-do- Accum	953.30	1008.20	+40.70	0.25
Amer Smlr Cos	197.30	208.60†	+ 3.20	
-do- Accum	201.60	213.10†	+ 3.30	
Australasian	203.40	213.00	+ 1.30	1.94
-do- Accum	257.80	272.50	+ 1.70	1.94
Blue Chip	93.12	98.58	+ 0.24	3.37
-do- Accum	260.61	269.24	+ 0.74	3.37
British Opps	69.48	73.48	+ 1.00	2.49
-do- Accum	250.10	264.70	+ 3.50	2.49
Capital	1176.40	1244.00†	+ 2.80	2.38
-do- Accum	1451.10	1534.50†	+15.40	2.38
Charifund #	1031.40	1041.80†	+ 7.50	4.88
-do- Accum #	5731.70	5789.10†	+41.50	4.88
Commodity	349.30	368.30†	- 1.90	1.34
-do- Accum	517.10	546.80†	- 2.80	1.34
Corporate Bond	29.42	29.52	+ 0.43	6.30
Dividend #	56.40	58.60	- 0.20	4.07
-do- Accum #	265.80	281.10	- 0.68	4.07
Equity Income #	398.20	419.00	+ 2.20	4.75
-do- Accum #	574.40	607.20	+ 3.20	4.75
European	632.60	668.50	- 0.90	0.38
-do- Accum	1074.80	1136.50	- 1.10	0.38
Euro Dividend #	104.50	110.50†	- 0.10	3.17
-do- Accum #	138.20	146.10†		3.17
Euro Smlr Cos	83.50	87.10	- 0.30	0.50
-do- Accum	83.70	87.30	- 0.30	0.50
Extra Income	608.60	644.60	+ 1.90	4.42
-do- Accum	2149.50	2273.30	+ 7.00	4.42
Fund of Inv Tsts	828.20	875.60	+ 4.40	1.23
-do- Accum	1624.30	1717.70	+ 8.70	1.23
Gilt Income	69.59	69.70†	+ 0.06	5.70
-do- Accum	228.44	228.61†	+ 2.98	5.70
Gold	38.80	42.10†	- 0.50	0.44
-do- Accum	48.10	50.90†	- 0.70	0.44
High Interest	25.11	25.11†	+ 0.05	6.97
Income #	42.89	45.20	+ 0.10	4.82
-do- Accum #	193.50	205.00	+ 0.80	4.82
Intl Growth	95.10	101.50†	+ 0.40	0.72
-do- Accum	171.20	181.10†	+ 0.60	0.72
International Inc #	133.10	140.70	- 0.10	3.96
-do- Accum #	221.00	233.60	- 0.20	3.96
Japan	28.30	30.00	+ 0.60	0.01
-do- Accum	28.50	30.00	+ 0.60	0.01
Japan Smlr Cos	90.60	96.00	+ 1.40	0.01
-do- Accum	91.50	96.70	+ 1.50	0.01
Managed Gwth	30.30	32.00†	+ 0.20	1.32
Managed Income #	36.40	38.30†	+ 0.10	4.80
Pension Ex	1406.10	1441.30	+ 2.30	3.02
Recovery	58.70	62.10†	+ 0.80	2.45
-do- Accum	104.20	110.40†	+ 1.00	2.45
Smaller Cos	72.80	77.00†		2.31
-do- Accum	155.80	165.70†	+ 1.90	2.31
Sth East Asia	256.30	271.00	- 6.80	1.94
-do- Accum	346.80	365.70	- 9.20	1.94
Treasure #	54.50	57.60	+ 0.20	4.81
-do- Accum #	247.40	261.90	+ 1.00	4.81
UK Equity #	88.80	91.80†	- 0.10	3.74
-do- Accum #	248.10	262.60†	+ 0.30	3.74
UK Growth	1429.30	1511.60	+10.70	1.87
-do- Accum	1616.50	1709.50	+12.10	1.87
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	141.48	150.48	+ 0.82	0.82
Intl Bond	62.54	65.89	+ 0.47	3.48
Intl Equity Growth	101.47	107.73	+ 1.21	0.46
N Amer Growth	189.17	200.83	+ 4.46	0.46
Special Sits Growth	37.55	39.94	+ 0.19	1.63
UK Growth	615.82	653.23	+ 8.17	2.04
-do- Accum	869.50	923.93	+ 8.71	2.04
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 826867				
Balanced Fd #	1513.30	1536.00	+ 7.80	2.76
Income #	1224.40	1242.70†	- 1.80	4.10
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	208.30	212.80†	+ 6.30	3.23
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 815 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	104.10	111.00	+ 1.10	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	185.30	189.50†	+ 0.70	5.99
Investment Pfo	218.50	226.30†	+ 0.30	1.65
-do- Accum	258.80	273.10†	+ 0.50	1.65
UK Select Pfo	210.40	217.00	- 0.30	1.73
-do- Accum	261.90	268.00	- 0.50	1.73
UK 100 Cos	164.90	164.90	- 1.00	1.74
-do- Accum	171.50	171.50	- 1.10	1.74
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	82.46	87.74	+ 0.98	2.87
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	104.00	110.40	- 0.16	3.66
European	135.90	144.30†	+ 0.10	0.13
Income #	106.70	113.30†	- 0.49	3.75
Nth American	120.10	127.50	+ 3.00	0.23
Far East	136.60	145.60	- 1.50	
Japan	53.86	56.95		
Emerging Mkts	78.32	83.76†	- 0.21	0.69
Intl Growth	145.80	154.80	+ 0.78	0.55
UK Growth	151.50	160.80	- 0.58	1.69
UK Smlr Co	67.01	71.14	+ 0.27	1.45
Asia Pacific	27.02	28.81	- 0.05	0.41
Glob Gwth PEP	76.25	80.94	+ 0.46	0.60
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	115.70	123.10	+ 1.09	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 558 6800				
Income	634.89	674.56	+ 0.36	2.76
Global Inc	94.72	100.77	+ 0.30	2.47
Bill Leaders Inc	487.14	518.23	+ 0.09	1.54
Intl Leaders	295.96	314.87	+ 3.50	0.89
PAM Mg Bal Grth	78.71	81.95	+ 0.31	0.20
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	383.50	404.80	+10.00	
-do- Accum	410.50	432.70	+10.80	
American Opps	157.00	166.70	+ 3.80	
-do- Accum	159.00	168.20	+ 3.70	
Bal Port	115.60	122.50	+ 0.80	2.43
-do- Accum	145.60	154.40	+ 0.80	2.43
British Blue Chip	130.80	138.80		2.38
-do- Accum	173.50	184.00	- 0.10	2.38
Cash	100.40	100.40†	+ 0.10	7.05
-do- Accum	159.20	159.20†	+ 0.10	7.05
Emerging Mkts	125.50	134.90		0.23
-do- Accum	127.30	136.80	- 0.10	0.23
European Growth	442.40	469.10	+ 0.20	0.11
-do- Accum	482.00	511.00	+ 0.30	0.11
General	758.70	805.90	+ 2.30	2.00
-do- Accum	1583.00	1681.00	+ 5.00	2.00
Global Bond	130.30	138.90	+ 1.20	4.38
-do- Accum	181.20	192.40	+ 1.70	4.38
Gold & General	126.60	138.00	- 3.50	0.50
-do- Accum	137.00	142.80	- 3.60	0.50
Govt Securities	103.30	108.50	+ 1.30	4.55
-do- Accum	223.80	239.90	+ 2.80	4.55
High Yield Bd	112.40	115.10	+ 1.30	5.52
-do- Accum	127.80	130.70	+ 1.50	5.52
Income	248.80	264.20†	- 0.40	3.41
-do- Accum	435.40	462.50†	- 0.40	3.41
Inc Portfolio #	135.00	142.50†	+ 0.80	4.57
-do- Accum #	156.00	165.10†	+ 0.50	4.57
Intl Opps	849.20	892.50	+ 7.80	0.73
-do- Accum	888.20	944.20	+10.60	0.73
Japan	142.60	152.10†	- 1.80	
-do- Accum	146.40	156.10†	- 1.90	
New Europe	297.30	317.10†	+ 2.10	0.89
-do- Accum	313.90	334.60†	+ 2.30	0.89
Pacific	71.64	76.42	- 0.86	0.25
-do- Accum	77.29	82.44	- 0.94	0.25
Recovery	564.00	598.40	- 4.30	1.95
-do- Accum	751.00	801.10	- 5.60	1.95
UK Smaller Cos	68.56	73.13	+ 0.49	1.61
-do- Accum	80.29	85.64	+ 0.49	1.61
Managed Gth	145.40	152.00	+ 0.40	1.62
Managed Inc	142.60	147.30	+ 0.70	3.73
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	83.45	87.38	+ 0.28	2.13
-do- Accum	94.48	98.93	+ 0.32	2.13
British Tst	146.70	153.60	+ 0.48	1.70
-do- Accum	179.30	187.80	+ 0.50	1.70
Corp Bond Inc	107.60	111.38†	+ 1.10	6.12
-do- Accum	119.10	123.48†	+ 1.20	6.12
Extra High Inc #	89.33	93.54†	+ 0.22	5.77
-do- Accum #	205.80	215.50	+ 0.50	5.77
FTSE 100 Acc	100.40	105.10†		1.64
FTSE 100 Dist	91.52	95.83†	- 0.01	1.64
Gilt & Fxd Int	61.10	63.50	+ 0.65	5.79
-do- Accum	207.70	216.10	+ 2.20	5.79
High Yield #	309.50	327.40	+ 0.80	4.98
-do- Accum #	909.60	946.40	+ 1.60	4.98
Household Names	127.90	128.50	+ 0.10	1.18
Income #	424.50	444.50†		3.70
-do- Accum #	1846.	1937.†		3.70
Money Market UT	49.32	49.32†	+ 0.05	6.51
-do- Accum	88.64	88.64†	- 0.00	6.51
Monthly Income	123.20	128.00†	+ 1.30	3.80
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	185.90	195.80	- 0.50	1.86
European Growth	193.70	203.30	+ 5.20	
Gilt & Fixed	117.60	124.70	+ 1.30	5.63
Income	143.60	152.80		3.38
Japan Growth	38.49	39.89	+ 0.52	
Managed	163.10	169.70	+ 0.40	2.18
Money Market	102.90	109.10	+ 0.20	5.00
North American	147.60	156.58	+ 1.80	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	169.40	180.20	- 0.50	1.86
European Growth	181.70	192.80	+ 4.90	
Gilt & Fixed Int	109.20	115.90	+ 1.20	5.63
Income	140.60	148.60		3.38
Japan Growth	38.52	39.77	+ 0.50	
Managed	99.90	105.30	+ 0.30	2.17
Money Market	94.97	100.70	+ 0.20	5.00
North American	132.70	140.10	+ 1.60	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	167.90	178.60	+ 0.50	1.86
European Growth	177.70	188.60	+ 4.70	
Gilt & Fixed Int	97.53	103.40	+ 0.80	5.73
Income	136.70	145.40		3.38
Japan Growth	37.42	39.65	+ 0.52	
Managed	102.10	108.60	+ 0.40	2.17
Money Market	85.33	90.45	+ 0.09	5.05
North American	147.70	156.80	+ 1.80	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	636.88	673.98†	+18.80	
European Gth Inc	680.50	722.90	+ 4.00	
-do- Accum	687.97	730.20	+ 4.10	
Intl Gwth	282.30	298.60†	+ 3.80	
UK Equity Inc	290.20	307.60		3.32
Do. Accum	410.80	436.70	- 0.10	3.32
UK Growth Inc	168.40	181.50†	+ 1.20	2.82
-do- Accum	177.30	190.00†	+ 1.30	2.82
UK Inst Tndr Inc	258.20	274.80†	+ 0.30	2.37
-do- Accum	329.60	351.10†	+ 0.50	2.37
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	400.90	423.60	+11.20	0.83
Japan Tracker	50.03	52.78	- 0.16	
Asian Tracker	137.00	146.00	- 2.30	0.43
Mngd Pfolio Inc	227.80	242.10	+ 1.40	1.48
Mngd Pfolio Acc	254.20	270.30	+ 1.50	1.48
Deposit Inc	100.05	100.06†	- 0.01	7.06
Europa	274.90	295.20†	+ 2.30	
Generale	234.30	254.40	+ 2.40	2.17
High Income	21.97	23.60†	+ 0.01	10.00
Japan Growth	77.51	82.27†	- 0.73	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	49.87		-91.13	
Portfolio Inc A ‡	48.67		-88.83	
Gilt Acc A ‡	90.86		-82.44	
-do- Inc ‡	50.38		-31.03	
American Growth	80.92	85.95	+ 1.78	
Equity Income #	137.20	140.60		3.45
European	107.20	109.20	+ 1.20	
Smaller Cos	98.84	103.90	+ 0.20	1.65
Wwide Eqy	90.98	93.90†	+ 0.69	
Global Bond	41.51	42.99†	- 0.04	4.51
UK Growth	140.89	144.80		1.13
Pacific Growth	71.69	73.37	- 0.48	1.98
Japan Growth	84.19	85.67	- 1.89	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Aros Equity	202.23	215.14†	- 0.62	1.67
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	166.00	174.75	+ 5.10	0.01
European Dist	203.10	213.80	+ 1.59	0.16
Far East Dist	127.70	134.40†	- 2.80	0.05
Global Care Dist	108.70	114.40	+ 1.95	0.27
Osea Dist	1172.10	1233.86	+ 2.90	0.18
-do- Accum	1525.10	1605.40	+ 3.80	0.18
UK Dist	569.20	599.20	+ 1.80	1.48
-do- Accum	1184.80	1247.20	+ 3.40	1.48
UK Extra Inc Dist	116.50	122.60†	+ 0.78	3
Wwide Dist	129.50	136.30	- 0.26	0.23
Wwide Inc Dist	103.80	109.20	- 0.40	1.83
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9166				
Europe Inc	104.36	110.14	- 0.19	0.25
Fund of Funds Inc	80.98	85.47†	+ 0.71	0.92
North America Inc	88.37	93.27	+ 2.52	
UK Equity Gth Inc	93.08	98.24	+ 0.09	1.22
-do- Accum	103.26	108.98	+ 0.10	1.22
UK General Inc	86.59	91.39	+ 0.24	1.30
-do- Accum	98.26	103.70	+ 0.27	1.30
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	50.41	53.10†	+ 0.38	5.74
UK Income Inc	86.28	91.06†	+ 0.77	2.09
UK Smlr Cos Inc	142.32	150.21	+ 1.02	1.06
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	70.27	74.75	+ 2.18	
-do- Accum	70.82	75.34	+ 2.21	
Bond	137.13	145.64	+ 2.11	4.55
Cash Income	90.77	90.77	+ 0.05	6.68
-do- Accum	73.83	73.83	+ 0.07	6.68
Challenger	86.60	92.82	+ 0.47	
Distributor	137.24	146.10	+ 0.19	1.75
European	83.88	89.14	- 0.29	
Foundation	137.40	146.17	+ 0.41	0.95
General Inc	218.11	231.73†	+ 0.30	0.95
General Acc	282.87	300.92†	+ 0.30	0.95
Growth Inc	179.25	190.69	- 0.08	0.83
Growth Acc	187.44	199.40	+ 0.08	0.83
Higher Income Inc	45.09	47.95	+ 0.33	3.83
-do- Accum	57.15	60.79	+ 0.40	3.86
High Yield Bond #	100.46	104.83†	+ 1.27	7.22
Income	359.47	383.05†	- 2.80	2.36
Intnatl	183.77	191.42	+ 4.38	0.92
Intl Gwth	46.41	49.37	+ 0.15	
Japan	24.90	26.48	- 0.65	
Oriental Inc	122.72	130.57	+ 1.24	6.28
-do- Accum	117.88	125.41	+ 1.28	0.28
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	59.42	62.88†	+ 0.18	5.12
UK Growth	145.40	154.90†	+ 3.80	2.32
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 254				
Master Trust	165.86	174.59	+ 0.77	1.86
UK Equity	223.91	235.70	+ 1.57	2.19
UK Equity Income #	198.70	207.05	+ 1.17	4.58
UK Smaller Cos	172.63	181.98†	+ 1.51	1.23
UK Equity Growth	190.58	200.62	+ 1.14	0.84
UK Index Trckg	226.19	238.72	- 1.30	1.89
Intl Index Trckg	205.02	216.38	+ 3.01	0.57
International	322.21	339.17	+ 3.34	1.02
European	343.28	361.35†	+ 0.93	0.01
Pan European	222.72	234.44	+ 0.73	0.83
Nth American	328.34	345.62	+ 6.49	0.05
N Amer Smlr Cos	358.81	377.70†	+ 9.46	
Japanese	71.48	75.24	+ 0.36	0.11
Pacific	163.93	172.56	- 0.71	1.75
South East Asian	171.80	180.94	- 0.23	1.78
Sterling Bond	111.05	116.91†	+ 1.50	5.73
Intl Bond	124.16	130.70†	+ 0.97	4.88
Gilt & Convertible	120.38	126.72†	+ 1.53	6.77
Property	94.36	99.33	+ 0.84	5.19
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	468.80	502.20	- 1.10	0.24
-do- Accum	498.40	532.80	- 1.80	0.24
Japan Inc	78.78	83.43	- 0.31	
Nth American Inc	214.60	227.00	+ 7.40	
Worldwide Inc	225.40	238.18	+ 4.10	0.04
HK & China Inc	141.10	151.00	- 3.40	1.29
Swiss Equities Inc	132.68	141.00	+ 2.30	
Wwide Bond Inc	68.37	73.34	+ 0.54	4.41
Emging Asia Inc	118.03	124.80	- 3.40	2.18
-do- Accum	118.90	125.70	- 3.50	2.16
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.09	50.09†	+ 0.05	6.65
Thailand Inc	45.85	48.78	- 3.70	1.99
New Zealand Inc	80.41	86.97		1.94
Int Mngd PEP Inc	92.07	98.41	- 0.59	0.46
Latin Am Crwp Inc	78.34	83.66†	+ 1.09	0.88
UK All Sh Mkt Inc	94.59	96.01	+ 0.11	1.77
Broker Unit Trusts				
Wey Global Blue	83.84	89.52	+ 0.42	0.89
Global Portfolio	81.27	86.92	+ 1.04	
Wey Global Bal	71.82	75.55	+ 0.43	0.98
Macro Global Gth	68.70	72.95	+ 0.91	0.21
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	145.30	155.40	+ 1.50	0.46
Temple Equity Inc	56.94	61.52†	+ 0.32	1.21
Hartley Growth	164.90	175.10	+ 5.10	0.76
Intl Growth	73.63	78.98		
IPS Portfolio Inc	112.40	118.90†	+ 0.40	
Roxburgh Strat Gth	77.19	82.38†		0.17
OPC Growth	76.05	81.34	+ 0.53	1.13
Cheyfield Fnd of Fds	56.54	59.99	+ 0.33	0.55
Fyg Intl Equity	87.71	93.81	+ 0.51	0.11
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 826 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	375.70	399.80	+ 0.20	1.27
-do- Accum	848.90	901.00	+ 0.50	1.27
Growth	244.10	258.80	+ 0.47	1.63
Income	357.76	380.50	+ 0.60	2.96
Intl Equity	323.80	344.20	+ 0.70	0.24
-do- Accum	363.40	386.60	+ 0.80	0.24
Equity Income #	96.34	102.46†	+ 1.50	4.18
Equity Growth	127.80	135.90	+ 0.10	1.08
New Europe	136.40	145.10	- 1.50	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	830.80	885.64	- 5.32	0.29
-do- Accum	839.30	895.61	- 5.38	0.29
Income #	621.30	664.18	- 6.83	3.16
Wwide Recovery	541.95	578.76	- 1.02	0.31
Amer Growth Inc	393.86	418.48†	+ 8.17	0.01
-do- Accum	393.86	418.48	+ 8.17	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	316.08	336.05	- 0.19	0.08
Far East Gwth Inc	242.08	258.91	+ 2.39	1.28
-do- Accum	248.95	264.13	+ 2.41	1.28
Euro Gwth Inc	262.64	280.13	- 2.02	0.01
-do- Accum	263.55	281.10	- 2.02	0.01
UK Growth Inc	152.55	162.82	- 1.56	1.97
-do- Accum	167.67	179.07	- 1.83	1.97
High Income #	161.05	172.12†	- 1.46	3.52
Jap Gwth Inc	147.88	157.88	+ 0.85	0.07
-do- Accum	147.88	157.88	+ 0.85	0.07
PEP Bond	86.65	89.65	+ 0.88	0.82
PEP Growth	181.42	193.59	- 0.94	0.42
Asian Gtr Mkts Inc	85.75	91.72†	- 3.44	0.53
-do- Accum	86.53	92.55	- 3.64	0.53
Amer Smlr Co Inc	253.79	270.14	+ 5.86	0.01
-do- Accum	253.79	270.14	+ 5.86	0.01
Global Bond	55.03	58.25	+ 0.69	4.37
UK Smaller Cos Inc	122.43	130.95	+ 0.89	2.00
-do- Accum	132.62	141.84	+ 1.08	2.00
Lat Am Gwth Inc	38.82	41.47	+ 0.31	0.07
-do- Accum	39.45	42.14	+ 0.32	0.07
World Inc PEP #	51.08	54.08	+ 0.11	3.50
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0181 201 3027				
American	174.38	185.72	+ 5.20	
European	126.76	134.43†	+ 1.15	
Global	76.06	81.77	+ 2.75	
Pacific	42.63	45.17	+ 1.27	
UK Inc & Gth	102.51	109.05	- 0.84	1.24
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8000				
Asia	41.94	44.49	+ 1.15	
Emerg Mkts	44.05	46.74†	+ 0.08	0.34
Euro Fund	54.53	57.85†	+ 0.30	
Fund of Funds	227.81	239.59	+ 2.80	0.89
High Income #	60.11	63.43†	+ 0.12	5.27
Performance	53.50	56.31	+ 1.06	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 406 832				
Special Sits	234.80	254.50	- 0.30	0.37
Dividend	137.20	146.70†	- 1.50	3.41
Int Gth & Inc	297.80	315.90†	+ 4.80	0.57
UK & Gen	84.87	89.17	+ 0.38	0.74
Fund of Funds	85.21	91.06	+ 0.91	
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01733 740 700				
Principal Tst	209.74	217.58†	+ 0.19	2.38

For Pacific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 506000				
Managed Tst	51.82	53.70	+ 0.15	1.86
Cash Hsan Inc	100.85	101.38†	+ 0.06	6.42
Cash Hsan Acc	128.13	128.75	+ 0.07	6.42
Dist Trust Inc	123.72	129.21†	+ 0.69	4.46
Dist Trust Acc	148.22	153.80	+ 0.76	4.46
Dist Growth	125.71	130.78†	+ 1.16	1.43
Equity Inc	110.09	117.12†	- 0.14	3.81
Equity	1140.05	1222.57	- 2.48	1.46
European	374.04	397.81	- 0.12	0.49
High Income	111.47	118.62	+ 0.51	4.81
Intl Gth	247.05	262.82†	+ 2.88	0.03
Intl Sm Co	104.80	110.64	+ 1.42	0.07
Japanese	133.51	139.35	+ 2.59	
Mngd Income Tst #	51.57	53.90	+ 0.36	7.11
Nth Amer	327.30	330.63	+ 9.00	0.03
Pacific Mkts	82.43	85.49†	- 1.87	1.52
Premier Inc	51.10	53.17†	+ 0.43	6.45
Sm Cos	122.21	128.01	+ 3.80	1.46
Spec Sits	156.71	166.71†	+ 0.81	1.05
UK Growth	193.58	205.95†	- 0.73	1.35
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 555 0807				
HI Inc Inc	102.81	108.11	- 1.56	3.38
Investment Trust	128.82	137.56	+ 1.19	1.35
UK Smaller Cos	121.60	128.66†	+ 0.75	1.95
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	458.00	486.00	- 2.50	1.83
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	37.58	38.25	+ 1.40	
Cash	48.40	48.41	+ 0.01	5.47
Emerging Mkts	48.81	49.55	+ 1.41	
Europe	81.43	85.05	+ 0.49	
Global Fixed Int #	50.80	52.53	+ 0.48	4.58
Japan	31.55	32.84	+ 0.19	
North America	91.02	95.05	+ 2.12	
UK	84.75	89.90	- 0.58	
UK Equity Inc #	79.11	82.62	- 0.61	3.69
UK Fixed Int #	55.42	57.97	+ 0.51	6.32
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Grth Port	62.57	64.83	+ 0.15	
Pep Inc Port #	64.83	68.35	- 0.18	2.73
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	86.67		+ 0.33	
Asia Pacific ‡	96.05		- 0.65	0.58
Europe ‡	50.65		- 0.07	
Japan ‡	42.65		- 0.69	
Latin America ‡	40.33		+ 0.59	
North America ‡	62.40		+ 1.72	
UK Eq Income ‡	54.34		- 0.14	3.77
UK Major Cos ‡	53.73		- 0.44	0.73
UK Smaller Cos ‡	57.49		+ 0.43	0.68
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6093				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1488.00	1574.00	+ 2.06	1.39
Equity Income #	150.80	159.20	- 0.20	3.76
European	276.50	293.20	- 6.10	
High Inc Bond	51.99	52.87	+ 0.23	5.81
Portfolio	141.70	149.90	+ 0.40	1.80
UK Index Trckg	265.40	281.80	+ 0.20	2.66
UK Leading Cos	113.00	118.50†	- 0.70	1.77
UK Smaller Cos	145.60	154.00	- 2.20	1.13
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	222.10	236.20	- 0.20	2.77
Intl Currency	71.37	75.87	+ 1.91	4.04
Intl Growth	94.92	100.40†	+ 1.42	
Intl Spec	84.40	88.75	+ 0.81	
Managed	227.50	244.60†	+ 1.20	0.80
Pacific Basin	62.64	65.69	- 0.71	0.57
United States	182.40	193.00	+ 5.90	0.28
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	199.30	212.10	- 0.60	
Far East	131.50	139.10†	- 1.20	
North America	268.50	285.00	+ 7.40	
Worldwide Bond	56.05	58.92	+ 0.32	4.44
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	267.70	283.90†	+ 8.00	0.95
European Growth	216.60	232.40†	+ 2.50	0.89
Far East Growth	103.00	109.60†	+ 3.30	2.55
Japan Growth	93.92	99.60	+ 2.97	0.57
Special Sits	257.10	273.50	+ 1.50	1.95
UK Growth	139.20	144.80	- 1.40	2.32
Intl Growth	340.50	362.70	+ 4.20	1.71
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	119.40	126.20†	- 1.30	0.90
Gt Euro Prog Inc	574.80	608.30†	- 3.30	1.00
-do- Accum	908.50	961.40†	- 5.20	1.00
Growth Inc	189.30	200.30	+ 0.30	0.85
-do- Accum	194.90	206.20	+ 0.20	0.85
International Inc	503.10	532.40	+ 0.20	1.22
-do- Accum	697.30	738.50	+ 0.10	1.22
Nth Am & Intl Inc	359.80	380.60	+18.70	1.31
UK Gen Prog Inc	337.90	347.00†	+ 1.30	1.43
-do- Accum	385.80	408.30†	+ 1.50	1.43
UK High Inc Inc	190.30	201.40†	+ 0.10	3.14
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.82	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	124.82	132.57	- 1.86	1.00
Global Bd	81.31	84.77	+ 0.19	5.80
Japan	43.36	45.74		
UK Gwth	113.56	120.81	+ 0.61	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	186.20	198.20†	+ 4.00	
Cash	144.60	144.60	+ 0.29	6.78
China Dragon	59.13	62.90	+ 0.24	0.40
Commodity	112.00	119.10	+ 0.80	
Emerging Mkts	37.36	39.74	+ 0.17	0.60
European Growth	323.10	343.70	+ 0.90	
Euro Smlr Cos	84.80	90.00	+ 1.30	
Extra Income #	70.18	72.73†	+ 0.18	4.27
Far Eastern	74.34	79.09	- 0.55	
FE Sm Cos	36.86	39.00	+ 0.33	0.69
Financial Secs	463.70	493.30	+ 0.90	1.12
Gold & Exploration	39.98	42.48†	+ 0.14	
Growth	560.10	583.60†	+ 0.98	1.35
High Income	54.06	54.06†	+ 0.50	5.65
Intl Bond	161.30	170.50	+ 1.60	4.59
ITU	274.30	291.80	+ 0.60	0.95
Japan Growth	124.39	131.97	- 0.20	
Japan Smaller	106.00	112.50	+ 0.30	
Korea	17.87	19.01	- 2.22	
Latin America	48.58	51.68	+ 0.69	0.07
Managed	77.11	77.58	+ 0.28	0.80
Premier Eq Gth	228.10	242.70	- 0.70	1.06
Premier Eq Inc #	482.10	512.90	- 0.50	3.61
SE Asia	31.62	33.65	- 0.62	0.69
Southern Africa	47.78	50.81	- 0.43	1.07
UK & Overs	242.40	257.90	+ 0.70	0.65
UK Eqty Gth	113.00	120.20	- 0.00	0.86
UK Eqty Inc #	341.70	363.60†	- 1.00	3.56
UK Gwth & Inc #	403.30	429.09†	- 1.30	2.69
UK Sm Cos	69.37	73.80†	+ 0.26	0.87
US Growth	305.80	325.30	+ 9.20	
New Europe ‡	51.76		+ 0.90	
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	468.95	495.37	+ 8.79	0.17
-do- Accum	522.19	551.81	+ 9.80	0.17
European Gwth	120.81	128.03	- 0.65	0.17
Euro Smlr Cos	131.84	140.12	+ 1.54	0.02
-do- Accum	133.74	142.14	+ 1.57	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	85.86	91.58†	- 0.59	0.25
-do- Accum	87.84	93.48†	- 0.51	0.25
Gilt & Fixed Int #	59.09	62.65	+ 0.78	6.86
Global Bond #	45.59	47.21†	+ 0.18	5.92
-do- Accum #	58.52	60.48†	+ 0.20	5.92
Global Emer Mkts	46.97	50.18	- 0.19	0.01
-do- Accum	47.02	50.14	- 0.19	0.01
Income #	538.80	575.76	- 0.63	4.12
-do- Accum #	1981.38	2028.14	- 0.11	4.12
Japan Smlr Cos	232.41	247.90†	+12.58	
-do- Accum	232.69	248.36†	+ 3.56	
Japan Enterprise	51.22	[illegible]	+ 0.49	
Pacific Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0.11	[illegible]
Portfolio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	127.98	136.25†	+ 0.18	1.95
Short	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 1.94	0.76
-do- Accum	15.92	16.96	- 1.94	0.76
Strategic Inc	112.76	125.45†	+ 0.06	2.06
Strategic Acc	121.52	129.48†	+ 1.02	2.06
Tokyo	107.38	114.53	- 0.65	
-do- Accum	108.45	115.68	- 0.56	
UK Enterprise	433.91	447.90†	+ 1.77	1.84
-do- Accum	635.58	671.29†	+ 2.26	1.84
UK Equity	392.58	419.72†	- 0.43	1.34
-do- Accum	616.97	621.45†	- 0.69	1.34
UK Smaller Cos	419.50	447.46	+ 4.74	0.70
-do- Accum	502.92	532.32	+ 5.10	0.70
US Smlr Cos	343.72	389.90	+ 7.31	
-do- Accum	347.72	389.90	+ 7.31	
Institutional Funds				
European	390.18	404.28†	- 0.83	0.85
-do- Accum	446.60	462.74†	- 0.95	0.85
Euro Smlr Cos	42.25	43.94	+ 0.19	0.07
-do- Accum	46.18	48.06	+ 0.21	0.07
Global Equity Inc	108.48	112.80	+ 1.18	0.73
Japan Smlr Cos	22.84	23.79†	+ 0.39	0.84
-do- Accum	23.10	24.08†	+ 0.39	0.84
Mngd Balanced	261.95	272.86	+ 0.05	3.00
-do- Accum	315.42	328.58	+ 0.07	3.00
Overseas Equity	229.14	238.26†	- 1.06	1.02
-do- Accum	243.47	253.18†	- 1.13	1.02
Overs Smlr Cos	130.43	135.66	+ 1.27	0.79
-do- Accum	138.82	144.85	+ 1.35	0.79
Pacific	173.13	180.38	- 1.34	2.38
-do- Accum	196.01	204.18	- 1.51	2.38
Recovery	2852.76	2971.82†	+10.74	2.64
-do- Accum	3260.28	3396.12†	+12.27	2.64
UK Index	246.76	257.04	- 1.27	2.57
-do- Accum	329.44	343.17	- 1.69	2.57
UK Small Cos	165.15	172.03	+ 1.53	2.49
-do- Accum	187.13	194.93	+ 1.74	2.49
US Smlr Cos	85.28	88.89	+ 2.00	0.35
-do- Accum	88.08	91.80	+ 2.07	0.35
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2209				
Equity Income	80.23	84.34	+ 0.14	2.02
Equity Trust	104.89	110.83	- 0.21	2.28
Equity Strategy	107.48	113.58	- 0.42	1.56
European Opps	142.42	150.61	+ 0.42	0.14
UK Smaller Cos	87.32	92.34	+ 0.26	1.43
[illegible] Inc	98.92	101.48	+ 0.16	7.83
Japanese	51.39	54.35	+ 0.37	
Asia Pacific	82.86	87.56	- 1.27	0.47
American	184.82	195.45	+ 5.37	0.84
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.52	35.52	+ 0.04	6.80
UK Eq Gwth Inc	80.53	85.73	+ 0.17	2.27
-do- Accum	111.80	119.22	+ 0.24	2.27
Intl Income	358.32	378.08	+ 2.20	1.31
-do- Accum	638.45	679.23	+ 4.08	1.31
European	141.09	148.93	- 0.62	0.96
Japan	49.86	52.96	- 0.79	
American	141.48	148.54	+ 3.79	0.88
Far East Tact	63.40	65.49	- 1.15	2.20
Ethical Inc	47.59	54.32†	+ 0.51	2.89
-do- Accum	56.80	60.63†	+ 0.60	1.58
UK Blue Chip Inc	54.25	57.82†	+ 0.34	2.25
-do- Accum	67.94	72.09†	+ 0.42	2.25
UK Equity Inc	59.95	63.75	- 0.19	3.24
-do- Accum	68.43	72.82	- 0.16	3.24
UK Global Inc	61.19	65.15†	+ 0.42	1.32
-do- Accum	68.52	72.79†	+ 0.48	1.52
Wwide Tact	104.21	110.88	+ 1.44	0.59
Europe Tactical	102.89	109.51	+ 0.45	0.55
Technology	198.34	207.28	+ 3.28	0.40
Dist Inc	30.27	32.11†	+ 0.26	5.23
-do- Accum	32.62	34.61†	+ 0.31	5.23
UK Fxd Inc Inc	27.14	28.72	+ 0.31	7.02
-do- Accum	29.56	31.28	+ 0.34	7.02
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	672.75	715.90	+ 0.68	1.70
American	472.60	499.48	+11.90	0.22
Pacific	308.78	331.28	- 8.10	0.42
European	436.50	464.30	+ 8.30	0.07
Worldwide	180.90	197.70	+ 0.30	0.26
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	436.30	464.10	+ 1.30	1.73
-do- Accum	560.80	632.50	+ 1.80	1.73
UK Sm Co Eq Inc	287.80	302.10	+ 0.30	1.05
-do- Accum	300.20	332.20	+ 0.20	1.05
Select Opportunity Inc	109.30	116.80	+ 1.40	1.50
Income Plus Inc	115.08	122.96	+ 0.40	3.95
European Inc	621.40	666.80	- 2.90	0.85
-do- Accum	663.80	709.80	- 3.30	0.85
Far Eastern Inc	119.40	127.60	- 1.10	1.53
-do- Accum	130.90	140.70	- 1.40	1.53
Japanese Inc	40.17	42.11	+ 0.08	
Nth American Inc	474.90	509.70	+14.50	0.04
-do- Accum	525.70	565.80	+16.50	0.04
Intl Growth Inc	246.20	260.70	+ 1.30	0.45
Wwide Venture Inc	109.20	118.00	+ 0.90	0.42
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 6000				
Equity Inc	577.60	620.40	- 3.60	1.87
-do- Accum	904.70	966.50	- 4.70	1.87
UK High Inc #	276.58	295.70	- 1.80	3.43
-do- Accum #	447.40	472.70	- 3.00	3.43
Europe Inc	528.40	560.50	+ 4.10	0.39
Nth Amer Inc	422.40	449.10	+12.40	0.01
Global Inc	302.80	319.90	+ 2.10	0.37
Global Acc	329.70	347.30	+ 2.30	0.37
UK Spec Sits Inc	188.70	199.80	- 0.20	1.71
South East Asia	135.20	143.00	- 1.00	0.89
Cash Trust Inc	101.80	101.80	+ 0.10	6.80
UK Smlr Cos Inc	137.30	145.20	+ 1.80	1.55
-do- Accum	147.80	156.20	+ 1.90	1.56
Intl Bond Inc	88.47	93.97	+ 0.47	2.94
Intl Smaller Cos	80.13	85.62	+ 1.35	
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	211.30	222.49	- 1.80	0.25
Nth American	136.80	150.70†	+ 4.30	
Intl Bond & Curr	137.70	144.90	+ 1.00	5.67
Pooled Pension	201.80	210.80	+ 0.19	1.52
Smaller Cos	142.80	152.30	+ 1.20	1.02
UK General #	217.50	228.80	- 1.00	1.33
Far Eastern	64.12	67.40	- 0.66	0.84
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6229				
Continental	121.07	127.70†	+ 0.20	0.70
Global Gwth	93.41	101.98	+ 0.80	1.35
Inv Tst Port	68.81	71.97	+ 0.19	1.82
Managed	1810.47	1904.27†	+18.11	2.29
Pref Inc #	112.00	118.10†	- 0.36	6.89
Smaller Cos	289.70	315.60†	+ 1.28	0.80
Ireland SB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	113.62		- 0.89	4.48
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.75		+ 0.12	7.09
Corporate Inc ‡	104.95		- 0.19	5.15
Tel Pep ‡	75.81		- 2.34	
Asian ‡	79.69		+ 0.97	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	183.49		+ 4.07	
European ‡	214.27		+ 0.65	
Global Bond ‡	92.17		+ 0.67	6.25
Sarnaal ‡	44.02		- 0.14	
UK Growth ‡	134.31		- 2.04	2.64
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	100.97		+ 0.42	2.85
Investment Trust ‡	128.24		+ 0.16	1.71
The Football Fd ‡	38.79			
Reserve Roll Up ‡	104.97		+ 0.39	
Growth Reserve ‡	100.42		- 0.97	3.17
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	585.70	611.70	+ 9.50	
Capital	178.90	189.20†		1.01
Cash	102.22	103.22	- 0.19	6.92
European	207.78	219.70	+ 1.10	0.04
Far Eastern	136.20	141.10	+ 1.80	
Growth	212.70	225.60†	- 0.97	0.59
Income #	176.40	186.60	- 0.40	4.67
Magnum	164.90	155.60	+ 0.20	1.09
Smlr Secs	707.80	749.90	+12.20	0.04
Thoroughbred	216.30	228.80†	+ 0.20	1.04
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 893				
Capital Preserve	61.40	65.83	+ 0.91	7.00
Ethical	96.96	103.70	+ 0.20	0.93
European Growth	108.40	114.98	+ 0.40	
Income #	75.19	80.41	+ 0.19	4.05
Intl Growth	128.20	135.80	+ 2.00	0.13
Managed	115.28	122.03	+ 0.80	0.17
UK Growth	98.77	[illegible]	- 0.41	1.15
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	54.69	[illegible]	+ 0.24	0.99
Global Advtg Acc	60.28	[illegible]	+ 0.26	0.99
Income Advtg Inc	47.09	[illegible]	- 0.23	3.37
Income Advtg Acc	57.23	[illegible]	- 0.26	3.37
UK Equity Gth Acc	132.80	140.80		0.84
Premier Inc Inc	54.68	[illegible]	+ 0.51	6.47
Premier Inc Acc	62.84	[illegible]	+ 0.56	6.41
Managed Acc	75.14	[illegible]	+ 0.46	1.80
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	55.55	[illegible]	- 0.09	3.18
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	76.77	[illegible]	- 0.13	3.18
UK Smlr Cos Acc	89.95	94.62	+ 0.99	0.34
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	108.50	115.39	- 0.70	1.29
UK Equity Gen Inc	76.33	81.11	- 0.50	1.29
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	35.24	37.27	+ 0.32	5.94
Cons Liq Co Acc	389.60	409.90	+ 7.50	5.70
Nth American Acc	78.31	83.21	+ 2.06	0.21
Pacific Basin	31.91	33.91	+ 0.99	1.52
European Acc	73.41	78.00	+ 0.51	0.02
Japan Acc	22.83	24.26	+ 0.30	0.75
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (US$)	5.502	5.844†	+ 0.06	1.78
US Eqts (US$)	4.769	5.065	+ 0.06	0.82
Far East Eqts (yen)	238.20	253.10	+ 0.40	
FT Europe	211.70	224.89	+ 4.50	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	4.667	4.953	+ 0.06	
FT Japan (yen)	148.90	148.90	- 6.20	
FT Asia Ex Jap (US$)	2.214	2.352		0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	860.70	898.90	+39.40	
British #	1683.10	1780.70	- 1.30	2.05
Emerging Mkts	159.30	169.30	+ 2.40	0.54
Euro Gwth Inc	128.92	135.90	- 0.30	
Euro Smaller Co	66.70	70.95	+ 0.84	
Japan	91.03	96.57	- 0.75	
Asia Pacific	338.00	359.60	+ 2.60	1.66
-do- Accum	367.70	391.20	+ 2.80	1.66
Inv Trust Acc	345.30	366.10	+ 2.60	0.56
Mngd Equity	246.00	260.30	- 0.46	1.86
Mngd Cash	95.97	95.97	+ 0.10	6.85
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	15.75	16.78	+ 0.08	2.47
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	107.64	114.52	+ 0.98	5.13
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	120.19	128.72	+ 1.06	5.13
European	69.32	73.75	- 0.09	0.21
Japan	27.94	29.73	- 0.32	0.01
Managed Assets	176.26	188.54†	+ 0.91	1.87
North American	63.32	67.37	+ 1.90	0.28
Smlr Co's Inc	42.80	45.54	+ 0.36	1.47
Smlr Co's Acc	47.80	50.86	+ 0.41	1.47
UK Growth Inc	86.76	92.30†	+ 0.24	1.56
UK Growth Acc	100.90	107.35	+ 0.25	1.56
Extra Income #	80.17	84.30	+ 0.27	3.79
Worldwide Gth	48.42	52.69†	+ 0.33	0.98
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 0117 989 9000				
Diversified	94.69	99.82	+ 0.45	
UK Income Inc	81.60	86.81	- 0.16	2.43
Mngd Eqty Inc Inc	41.09	43.45	+ 0.14	5.98
Mngd High Yld Inc	118.80	125.59	- 0.20	3.28
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	111.80	118.83	- 0.10	2.49
UK Smaller Cos	45.98	48.83	+ 0.12	1.87
Pacific Grth Port	34.46	36.68	- 0.64	0.89
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 345 794				
American	420.75	445.24	+14.55	
-do- Accum	463.4	490.41	+18.83	
Brit Growth	167.2	177.50	- 0.34	1.22
-do- Accum	212.5	224.99	- 0.43	1.22
European	169.2	175.93	- 0.04	
-do- Accum	177.5	187.92	- 0.03	
Extra Income #	282.8	299.25	+ 0.34	3.67
-do- Accum #	541.1	572.65	+ 0.66	3.67
Smaller Cos	100.7	106.56	+ 0.41	0.86
-do- Accum	116.6	128.11	+ 0.47	0.86
General	478.1	505.98†	+ 0.17	1.41
-do- Accum	2044.9	2105.76†	+ 0.38	1.41
Premier Income	56.5	59.59†	+ 0.57	5.42
-do- Accum	151.8	158.16†	+ 1.53	5.42
Income #	[illegible]	541.52	+ 1.16	3.34
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	1311.55	+ 2.81	3.34
Pacific	[illegible]	282.17	- 4.38	0.83
-do- Accum	[illegible]	298.49	- 4.61	0.83
International	[illegible]	808.33	+ 7.92	0.22
-do- Accum	[illegible]	1085.51	+10.42	0.22
Nat Resources	[illegible]	136.20	+ 1.05	0.60
Gold Opps	[illegible]	179.44	- 0.86	0.84
-do- Accum	[illegible]	238.08	- 1.15	0.84
Environmental Inv	[illegible]	121.73†	- 0.65	0.80
Selector	[illegible]	108.88	+ 0.02	1.23
-do- Accum	[illegible]	119.40	+ 0.02	1.23
High Income #	[illegible]	98.59†	+ 0.19	3.51
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	138.84†	+ 0.26	3.51
Intl Income	[illegible]	90.32	+ 0.18	4.58
-do- Accum	[illegible]	98.19	+ 0.25	4.88
Selector Income	[illegible]	87.72	+ 0.26	3.41
-do- Accum	[illegible]	115.55	+ 0.34	3.41
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0161 962 7016				
British	55.16	58.22	+ 0.29	1.76
European	[illegible]	109.54	- 0.21	1.10
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	[illegible]	238.56†	+ 1.53	3
Glob Growth Acc	[illegible]	338.92†	+ 1.81	3
Glob Balncd Inc	[illegible]	231.34	+ 0.87	4.01
Glob Balncd Acc	[illegible]	289.55	+ 1.10	4.01
Value Tst Inc	[illegible]	176.89	+ 1.73	2.22
Value Tst Acc	[illegible]	201.38	+ 1.97	2.22
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 628 0002				
Capital	[illegible]	130.70†	- 0.80	0.54
International	[illegible]	81.53	+ 3.22	..

For Thornton see DresdnerRCM

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 068300 Inter Serv: 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Income	32.40	34.96†	+ 0.16	3.86
Cont Mg Gth Acc	52.63	55.10	+ 0.29	4.14
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	51.89	54.12	+ 0.35	2.63
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	50.83	53.22	+ 0.33	0.89
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	54.15		+ 0.49	6.42
UK Equity Inc #	57.44			3.56
UK Growth ‡	58.35		+ 0.12	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	82.07		+ 0.02	2.40
UK Monthly Stes ‡	50.83		+ 0.08	7.13
UK Monthly Inc #	50.84		- 0.03	3.65
UK Select Gwth ‡	56.89		+ 0.18	1.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	36.33		+ 0.17	0.57
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	51.56		+ 1.17	0.10
European Growth ‡	56.00		+ 0.11	0.66
FE & Jap Gwth Acc ‡	55.88		- 0.11	
Global Bond ‡	52.58		+ 0.31	6.81
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	58.43		+ 0.38	
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	53.27		+ 1.74	0.04
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.11		+ 1.44	
Asia Growth ‡	49.01		- 0.24	0.19
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	50.20		+ 0.07	0.08
Emg Mkt Bd Fd ‡	55.84		+ 0.63	8.26
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	54.17		+ 1.55	
Gb Sel Gth Acc ‡	48.28		+ 0.59	0.11
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	57.02		+ 0.05	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	49.65		+ 0.79	
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	57.47			4.20
UK Growth ‡	58.46		+ 0.12	1.89
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	52.14		+ 0.03	2.59
UK Inst Gwth ‡	58.33		+ 0.10	1.70
UK Depot Eqo ‡	54.78		+ 0.08	1.09
UK Select Gwth ‡	58.87		+ 0.19	2.07
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	55.48		+ 0.18	1.44
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	51.89		+ 1.17	0.60
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	55.72		+ 0.11	0.55
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	53.89		- 0.10	
Global Bond ‡	52.51		+ 0.34	7.41
Japan Growth Acc ‡	58.52		+ 0.36	
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	59.40		+ 1.76	0.54
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	55.16		+ 1.44	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	34.12		- 0.24	0.69
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	53.31		+ 0.07	0.59
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.75		+ 1.55	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	57.05		+ 0.05	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	49.67		+ 0.80	
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 366				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	441.97	470.18	- 0.41	3.54
UK Eqty Gwth	478.85	509.20	- 0.32	1.61
European	241.88	257.08	+ 0.60	0.47
Nth American	118.72	126.30	+ 3.90	0.03
Far Eastern	75.16	82.95	- 0.72	0.48
Money	78.17	78.17†	+ 0.06	6.46
Fixed Interest #	92.24	97.90	+ 0.85	7.18
Index Linked Gilt	83.19	88.29	+ 0.72	1.58
VIRGIN DIRECT FS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	114.61	114.31	+ 1.13	5.70
Pers Growth	136.97	136.97†	- 0.74	
Pers Inc Prot	118.60	118.60†	+ 1.14	
UK Index Tracking	174.06	174.06	- 0.85	1.30
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 551 7455				
Australasian Gold	14.38	15.14†		
Pacific Basin	22.39	24.82		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9754	1.0580		
Penny Share	45.81	49.01		
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	131.90	133.30	+ 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8206	0.8293	+ 0.00	
Gilt Income	53.16	54.61	+ 0.29	6.10
Gilt Growth	92.27	96.68	+ 0.38	
Sterling Bond	53.13	54.03	+ 0.67	6.80
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	67.49	71.61	- 0.52	1.66
UK Stockmarket	134.80	142.50	- 1.00	2.01
Corporate Bd Inc	92.25	96.71	+ 0.78	5.40
Do Accum	92.95	98.92	+ 0.45	5.40

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

هكذا من الاصل

HALIFAX

WINDFALL SHARES 52

The rewards to new bank investors

WEEKEND MONEY

SMALL BUSINESS 59

Raising capital when the bank says 'no'



Caroline Merrell on the benefits to borrowers of the latest mortgage market moves

Migs under fire after Halifax hit

Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, made one of its most aggressive moves in the lending market last week by announcing plans to abolish mortgage indemnity guarantee (Mig) premiums for those with a deposit of more than 10 per cent.

Halifax was followed almost immediately by Abbey National, Northern Rock, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and NatWest. The trend will save borrowers hundreds and in some cases thousands of pounds.

The Mig is mandatory for those who borrow more than 75 per cent of the value of a property. The cost of the premium depends on the amount borrowed and the proportion borrowed as a percentage of the valuation. For some, the Mig premium can come as an unwelcome shock on top of all the other costs associated with buying a home. Many lenders offer to add the premium to the overall cost of the loan: this in turn adds to the overall cost of the premiums. Here *The Times* answers some questions about Migs.

What is a Mig?
A Mig protects the lender against the costs of a borrower defaulting on the mortgage and having to be repossessed. However, even though the borrower pays the premium, he or she reaps no benefit from the insurance. If the borrower's home is repossessed and the lender makes a claim, the insurer will often pursue the borrower through the courts for the costs of repossession.

How much does it cost?
The Mig premium will depend on the sum borrowed, and the loan to value (LTV) of the property. For example, a borrower with a home valued at £100,000 and a 90 per cent loan with Halifax will pay a premium of more than £1,000. Premiums soared a few years ago because of the high level of arrears and repossessions. Although these have fallen, Mig premiums have remained high despite the fact that up to 50 per cent of the premium is paid in commission to the lender.

Why have these lenders scrapped the Mig premium?
Halifax scrapped Mig premiums because, as one the UK's biggest banks, it can afford to do so. It now has a commercial advantage over many of its rivals. It has what is known as a captive insurer, making the cost of scrapping the premiums lower than it would be if it used an outside insurer. The others had to match Halifax or risk losing a considerable proportion of their new mortgage business.

What will this mean for borrowers?
Those who have yet to apply for a loan will not have to pay a Mig premium if they have a deposit of more than 10 per cent and apply to Halifax. Northern Rock is to scrap the fee for those with a deposit of 15 per cent or more. C&G and Mortgage Express were already paying the Mig premium themselves.

What about Halifax and Abbey National borrowers who have applied for loans, but who have not yet paid the premium?
Halifax is emphatic that the change will apply to new applications only. Abbey National will waive the premium for those with applications that are currently being processed. Mortgage brokers, however, believe that it may be worthwhile for those who have already applied for a mortgage, if their application is simple, to reapply for the loan through Abbey or Halifax. They say that this may force the original lender to waive the premium.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Linda Pettit looked like missing out when Abbey National announced it was scrapping Mig premiums

Abbey confuses clients

Abbey National, one of the UK's biggest lenders, left some of its borrowers in the lurch over mortgage indemnity cover last week. Some borrowers, who were in the process of taking out loans with the Abbey, were incensed that the change to mortgage indemnity guarantee (Mig) premiums appeared to have come too late for their applications.

Linda Pettit is one borrower who looked like missing out after Abbey's decision to scrap Mig premiums. Ms Pettit read in the papers that Abbey intended to scrap the fee on the day when she was due to exchange contracts on her property. When she saw the story, she said she phoned the branch that was arranging her loan at once as she was due to pay a £900 premium. She said: "I phoned the Abbey National office. They had been given no specific instructions about the change to the mortgage indemnity premiums." She added that the woman at the Abbey said she did not envisage the bank backdating the change. Ms Pettit was particularly galled by the bank's attitude because she had also previously been an Abbey borrower. Abbey has since clarified its position — and Ms Pettit will now benefit.

According to Clark Conway, the mortgage broker, Abbey National had one of the highest mortgage indemnity premiums. A borrower with a 5 per cent deposit would pay more than £1,000 in indemnity insurance on a £50,000 loan.

Equity release home loans to be offered by brave Barclays

Barclays has finally plucked up the courage to become the first high street bank to follow the Bank of Scotland into the shared appreciation mortgage (Sam) market. Barclays will launch a low-cost Sam at the end of March in a bid to attract business from thousands of elderly but poor homeowners.

Sams are designed to be a safe way to help "asset-rich but cash-poor" homeowners to unlock some of the equity in their homes. This can then be spent or invested on anything, from going on holiday to topping up a pension.

A staggering £307 billion is held in unmortgaged homes and is potentially up for grabs by taking out a Sam. The Government is encouraging lenders to promote such products, aware that releasing just a fraction of household equity could solve the crisis in welfare funding.

However, equity release lending is fraught with danger. Just this week 350 elderly victims and the Investors Compensation Scheme took the West Bromwich Building Society to court in a test case over the mis-selling of home income plans (HIPs) in the late 1980s. Under these the over-60s were encouraged to borrow up to 50 per cent of the value of their homes and put a portion of the proceeds in investment bonds. Homeowners ran into trouble when property prices collapsed and the bonds lost money.

Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays, who is heading the Government's review of how taxation and benefits interact, authorised the latest Sam only after being reassured that it was entirely different from HIPs and would not drag the bank into another mis-selling scandal.

Fortunately for Mr Taylor, the Sam is radically different from its ill-fated predecessor. The Barclays scheme enables homeowners over 45 to apply for an interest-free loan up to a quarter of the value of their home. However, in return they will have to share with the bank up to 75 per cent of any future growth in the home's value. Barclays will issue a Sam only on homes worth at least £60,000. There is no upper limit.

The one-to-three ratio between what homeowners borrow and give away in future appreciation is the same as that offered by Bank of Scotland, which pioneered the product in 1996. Indeed, the Barclays Sam is almost exactly the same, although it has halved BoS's booking, arrangement and valuation fees to an all-in cost of £250. Barclays will refund this fee after completion. However, if borrowers redeem the loan in the first year they will have to repay this plus a £150 release fee.

Such is Barclays's paranoia about getting involved with any equity release scheme charging borrowers interest, it has refrained from copying BoS in launching a 5 per cent Sam. The advantage for homeowners is that although they pay more on the loan, they can borrow more and give away less in appreciation.

Jim Chadwick, marketing director at Barclays Mortgages, says the bank will issue the Sam with strong health warnings: the most important is that taking out a Sam is inadvisable if you have long-term plans to move again. The longer you hold a Sam, the more you give away in appreciation and the less your money will buy at the end. What buys you a palace now might not stretch to a garden shed in 20 years' time.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

The Index-Tracking PEP

WHAT MAKES LEGAL & GENERAL'S FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX-TRACKING PEP OUTSTANDING VALUE FOR MONEY?

A glance at the table will show that – since its launch over two years ago – this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors superb value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stock-market, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, a lump sum of £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would now be worth £9,434* compared to just £8,738* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

NO INITIAL CHARGES
0.5% ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE
NO WITHDRAWAL FEE

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH NOV 95 TO FEB 98

	Annual Charge	Growth
Legal & General	0.50%	57.24%
[illegible]	0.50%	56.70%
[illegible]	1.00%	46.71%
[illegible]	1.00%	35.57%
[illegible]	[illegible]	49.34%

The All-Share Tracking PEP that has performed the best

NO COST LEGAL & GENERAL ISA CONVERSION †

With no initial charges deducted, more of your money is invested at the outset for maximum growth potential, there are no withdrawal fees and with an annual management charge of 0.5% – the value for money is outstanding.

So make the most of today's opportunities. For further details (including information on our monthly saving option) call now or visit our web site at www.LandG.com

Find out more now – phone free 0500 11 66 22
FREEPHONE 8am TO 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am TO 5pm WEEKENDS. PLEASE QUOTE REF: CODL99

For your protection and to enable us to deal with any queries that may arise calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored

YES – I would like more information about the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP. Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0467, Cardiff CF1 1YW.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Forenames
Address
Postcode Date of birth / /
Tel. No: Home Tel. No: Work
If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐. CADL00
We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐

Legal & General

†Subject to Government regulation. *Source: Micropal/LGIM, on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income reinvested from 01.11.95 (since launch) to 03.02.98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 06.04.99 tax credits will no longer be able to be reclaimed by PEPs investing in equity based unit trusts. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amounts invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 03.02.98. The Government published a consultative document in December 1997 on proposals for Individual Savings Accounts (ISA's) to be launched in April 1999. The terms and limits for converting an existing PEP into an ISA are being considered as part of the consultation. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.



"I call IT a vintage that will appreciate with time"



£250 per month in the average investment trust managed by Edinburgh Fund Managers since 1988 is today worth £61,034

What will you use your PEP proceeds for?

Call 0800 838 993 Now

We call IT the Investment Trust PEP

Investing tax free is now really straightforward thanks to The Edinburgh Fund Managers Investment Trust PEP - giving you access to 10 trusts in markets all around the world.

The low cost Investment Trust PEP makes the most of your regular monthly savings or lump sum investment - so you can do more with the money you take out.

- No dealing charges*
- £30 initial charge, no exit charge
- Annual charge 0.5% - max £40
- 'ISAbility': All our PEPs will convert to the new Individual Savings Accounts (ISA) subject to government rules

Outstanding performance

VALUE OF £1,000 INVESTED	5 YEARS*	10 YEARS*
Average Highest Rate Building Society Account	£1,245	£2,885
Average Unit Trust	£1,708	£6,946
Average Edinburgh Fund Managers Investment Trust	**£1,742**	**£8,383**

Edinburgh Fund Managers is one of the UK's leading Investment Trust managers. The group also provides Savings Schemes, Personal Pensions, Unit Trusts and Private Client Management.

To find out more ask your Financial Adviser or call our Helpline FREE on 0800 838 993.

Edinburgh FUND MANAGERS

Edinburgh Fund Managers plc, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.

Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The value of tax tax relief will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. You should note that the government will be launching Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) at 1999. At that time, PEP investments will no longer be available although existing investors may switch to a new ISA. It should be remembered that a building society account is not exposed to stock market risks and provides, in the case of the ordinary account, immediate access to capital. As with all equity investments the value of investment trusts' shares purchased will immediately be reduced by the difference between the buying and selling prices of the shares (the market maker's spread) and stamp duty. (Source: Micropal, mid to mid, gross income reinvested as at 1.1.98.

EPI402

هكذا من الاصل



Could you save over £200 with Au?

Are you paying too much for your credit card?

Au is a new kind of Gold MasterCard.

You pay just 9.9% APR for the first year on balance transfers, and only 13.9% APR standard rate.

You have up to 56 days interest-free credit, and there's no annual fee.

How can we do this? Au is only available to individuals who earn at least £20,000 a year, and have a good credit history. That means our cardholders don't subsidise other people's bad debts.

9.9% APR balance transfers for 12 months
13.9% APR standard rate

Take a look at the table below and see just how much you could save. Then call us free on 0800 000 197 or send back the coupon.

Au. Not everyone gets it. Will you?

Au Gold MasterCard	Nil	9.9%	N/A
Barclays standard Visa	£10	22.0%	£215.20
NatWest standard Visa	£12	20.8%	£195.00
Midland standard MasterCard	£12	20.6%	£192.00
Goldfish MasterCard	Nil	19.8%	£174.00

Call free on **0800 000 197**

Please return to Au Card, FREEPOST SEA3002, Mitre House, Kingston KT2 6BR. Quote Ref: U553
We'll send you full information about Au

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Address
Postcode
Telephone (Home/Work)

Au MasterCard

Note: Unavailable to persons under 21 years of age. Written quotations are available. Subject to status. Cardholder is required to make monthly payments within 25 days of statement date of at least the minimum sum specified on statement which shall not be less than 5% of the outstanding balance or £5, whichever is greater, or the full amount due if less than £5. Current rates as at 1 December 1997. "Above savings are based on transferring a balance of £2,000, which remains constant for a year. Balance transfer rate 9.9% APR fixed for 12 months, standard rate 13.9% APR variable. The above APRs include the annual fee where applied. The Au card balance transfer rate is shown. The rates for all other cards are their standard rates and exclude any short term special offers. APRs are based on a credit limit of £5,500.

RBS Cards reserve the right to offer you a similar card, Au2, with a standard APR of 16.9% variable and a balance transfer rate of 13.9% APR fixed for the first 12 months and no annual fee, if you do not qualify for the lower rate card.

RBS Cards Limited. Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Registered in Scotland Number 160 111. A Royal Bank of Scotland Company.

Waste to be frozen out

Clare Stewart on the bill-busting Bill set to bring long-term savings for housebuyers



Surveyors will assess efficiency of home heating systems

Housebuyers will be given information on the energy efficiency of properties and advised on ways to cut fuel bills if new proposals now before Parliament are passed. The Energy Efficiency Bill, a Private Member's Bill presented by John Burnett, the Liberal Democrat MP, last week gained an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons. It has won cross-party support and has been backed by high street mortgage lenders.

If the Bill is successful, property surveys in addition to information about the structure and repair of the house will grade properties according to their energy efficiency, using an approved standard applied across all properties. In addition, a surveyor's report would have to list ways in which energy efficiency could be improved and the estimated cost of doing so.

Friends of the Earth, which together with the Association for the Conservation of Energy is backing the Bill, says that housebuyers could save £200 a year in fuel bills as a result of improving a property's energy efficiency through relatively low-cost measures.

About 400,000 new mortgages are taken out each year. Energy efficiency measures in the home could cut carbon dioxide emissions by 63 million tonnes annually, equivalent to around 11.5 per cent of total UK emissions. The idea of incorporating energy efficiency ratings into surveys has been backed by banks and building societies. "We agree in principle though we do have some concerns about how the changes will be delivered," said Kate Main, a senior policy adviser at the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

The Bill's supporters also point to growing public interest in the issues, and the findings of a recent survey by South Bank University in London, which showed that 87 per cent of buyers would have liked an energy rating for their home.

The details of the legislation have yet to be filled in through discussions at the committee stage in Parliament and through further consultations. But Mr Burnett says that he expects the additional cost of surveys to housebuyers to be about £15 and to require only an extra five to ten minutes of the surveyor's time.

Mr Burnett said: "Few people would buy a house without finding out into which council tax band the house fell. Yet despite the fact that fuel bills can often be greater than council tax bills, we currently receive no information at all on the likely level of fuel bills."

The way in which a property's energy efficiency would be assessed has not yet been drawn up. The original suggestion was for the assessment to conform with the existing Standard Assessment Procedure, or SAP measure, that is used in the construction industry. But Mr Burnett said this has been ruled out because it would be too costly.

Richard Deeprose, operations director of Ekins Surveyors, a subsidiary of the Woolwich, says a surveyor would look at aspects such as wall or loft insulation, whether the property had double glazing, the efficiency of its heating system, the number of outside walls or whether it had rooms over unheated space.

The information on how to improve energy efficiency will not be anything new. There have been attempts over the past 14 years to drive home the message that simple measures can save money, but these initiatives have not been successful. The Energy Saving Trust runs a free advice helpline and information on money saving measures. These include common sense ideas such as not overfilling kettles to low-cost suggestions such as using energy saving lightbulbs and improved draught proofing around the house.

Insulating a loft might cost around £110 on a DIY basis, but save £40-£50 annually. Replacing a boiler that is over 15 years old with a condensing boiler could bring a 30 per cent cut in fuel bills. A condensing boiler might be more expensive than ordinary models but the cost could be recovered in two to three years.

The Energy Saving Trust: 0345 277200.

EMU concern on the homes front

The clock is ticking for economic and monetary union, which is expected to be launched next year. Although the UK will not join in the first wave, A *Times* reader, Sylvana Krausse, has raised the question of what impact EMU will have on interest and mortgage rates.

It is widely anticipated that if the UK joins EMU, it would be signing up to a centrally decided interest rate, set in line with generally lower rates seen in Europe. European rates are currently around 4.5 per cent, against 7.25 per cent in Britain.

Trevor Williams, senior economist at Lloyds TSB Group, says that if such a sudden change happened now it would "lead to an uncontrollable boom that would be inflationary. But by the time we join, our economy may be ready for lower interest rates".

The Council for Mortgage Lenders agrees that if by the time the UK joins EMU, our economy is more in cycle with those in Europe, the switch to interest rates controlled centrally in Europe, would provide less of a shock.

But Fionnuala Earley, senior economist at the CML, says that low interest rates are not the sole factor affecting the housing market. Much depends on underlying economic conditions, as in 1994 when housing transactions remained low in spite of low interest rates.

Other changes that Britain's membership of EMU might bring include a more competitive lending market as more European lenders focus on opportunities in the UK. Without concerns about currency fluctuations, homeowners might be shopping around German, French or Spanish mortgage providers as well as our high street lenders.

The UK has a larger number of householders with mortgages than other European countries and Mr Williams adds: "If interest rates change, it would have a greater impact on the UK but we would be less able to influence decisions on rates, being just one voice in Europe."

CLARE STEWART

The value of shares and any income from them can go down as well as up. Tax concessions are not guaranteed, their value will depend on individual circumstances. It will not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after April 1999 when the Government plans to introduce Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs). Threadneedle Investment Services Limited, Authorised Corporate Director and Unit Trust Manager. Threadneedle Portfolio Services Limited, PEP Manager. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Members of the Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle marketing group. *Source AUTIF, unit trust groups by total fund value at 31.10.97. †Funds under management 30.9.97.

Threadneedle. *Performance.*

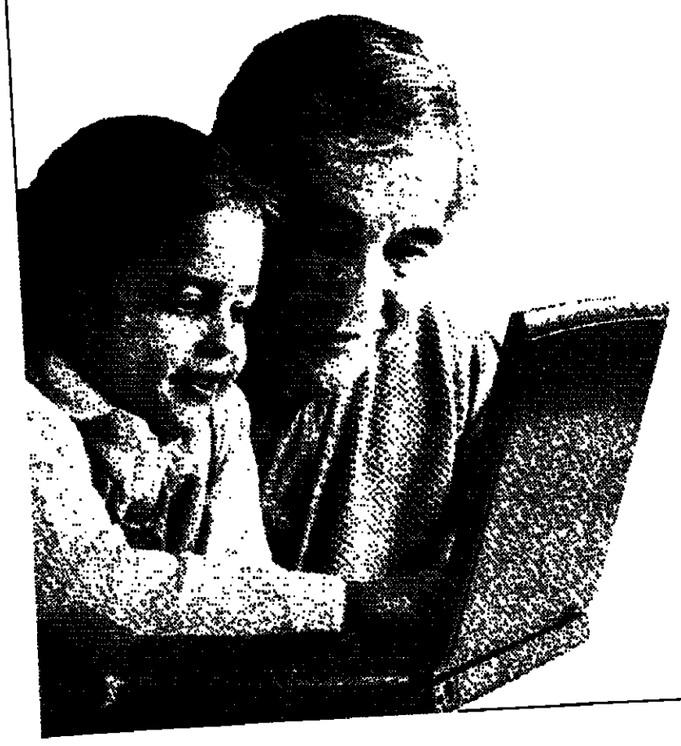
In the changing face of tax-free investments.

Threadneedle is a major new force in tax-free investments. But we're already a top ten UK investment fund manager* and part of one of Europe's largest financial services organisations, taking care of more than £35 billion for our investors.†

Our success is based on our commitment to delivering consistent, strong returns and our determination to offer products and services at the leading edge of new developments. And now we are leading the way as the only UK company to offer a comprehensive open-ended investment company (OEIC) based PEP, so giving our investors real choice and value for money.

Talk to your financial adviser about Threadneedle Investments or call free on 0500 600 566 now for more information.

The future of tax-free investments is set to change – with Threadneedle your investments will gain from our experience.



Threadneedle investments

SIMPLY THE BEST

PEP discounts in the UK



Don't miss the boat!

Applications for 1997/98 PEPs must be received at our offices by 2nd April 1998 at the latest.

- We are a **DISCOUNT BROKER** which means we rebate to investors the commissions of up to 5% charged when you buy direct or through conventional brokers. **From 1st February 1998 to 5th April 1998 our normal £25 handling fee will be waived.**
- We are **INDEPENDENT**, so we offer a huge range of investment options from all the UK's leading investment companies.
- We are **HIGHLY EXPERIENCED** – Elson Associates has been established since 1987 and over 40,000 clients come to us to arrange their PEPS.
- We offer **PERSONAL SERVICE** in a way that continues to reflect our family-founded origins.
- We aim to offer the **HIGHEST PEP DISCOUNTS IN THE UK**. As volume dealers in PEPs, we are able to negotiate the very best terms for our clients.

Opening a new PEP?
Unhappy with the performance of your existing PEP?
Looking for reduced charges?

For further information, cut out and return the coupon below to Elson Associates, FREEPOST DT1138, 18 Maxwell Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1BR or alternatively call us free on

☎ 0500 691790 ☎

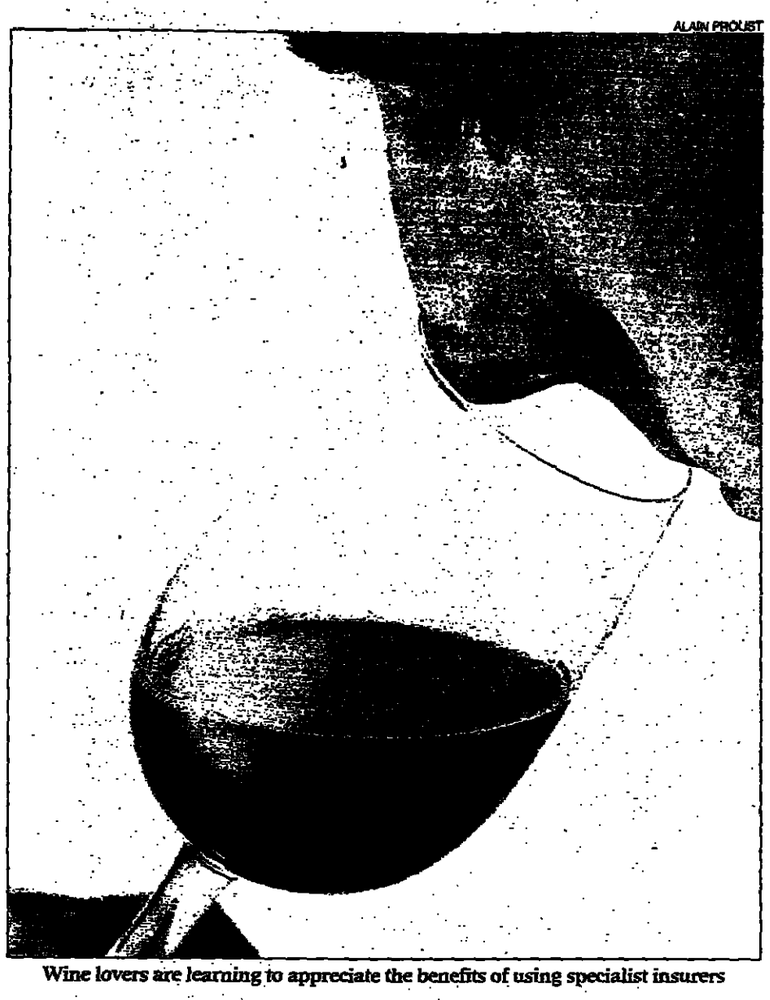
www.elson.iii.co.uk

ELSON ASSOCIATES

Name .....
Address ..... Postcode .....
.....
I am particularly interested in a ..... (company) PEP.
Please send me the relevant application form together with the discount information

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. From 6th April 1999 tax credits will not be reclaimable on PEPs. The Government published a consultative document in December 1997 on proposals for Individual Savings Accounts (ISA's) to be launched in April 1999. The terms and limits for converting an existing PEP into an ISA are being considered as part of the consultation. We do not offer advice as to the suitability of the investments you buy through us. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice.

ALAIN PROUST



Wine lovers are learning to appreciate the benefits of using specialist insurers

Cover in case your wine gets smashed

Fine wine can be a great investment but it is perishable and can easily deteriorate. If you store a collection of bottles in your own home you could well be underinsured for accidental damage. You also need to review your cover regularly if your collection is likely to appreciate in value over the years.

Although insurance companies can include cover for wine in standard household policies, it usually only applies to bottles stolen after forcible or violent entry.

Some policies will pay out if the culprit is a thirsty domestic servant, or if a member of the household drops a case, but insurers usually say no to paying for wine drunk at adolescent parties whilst the parents are away.

Taking out an accidental damage extension at a cost of about 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the contents premium will cover wine against most domestic mishaps, but often will exclude damage by pets.

Even when wine claims are paid by standard household insurers the payments made may bear little relation to the market value of the wine.

Some wines released last year such as Chateau Latour and Chateau Margaux have virtually doubled in value. This will not, however, be a problem if you insure through specialists such as Nordstern Art Insurance, Chubb Insurance, Hiscox Underwriting or Cox Underwriting Services. Their policies automatically cover accidental damage and virtually any unintentional but explainable loss — other than deterioration of contents. They have even been known to replace labels on bottles after cellars have flooded.

Such insurers should be approached through a specialist broker who will shop around for the most suitable cover. Brokers who can help include Gauntlet Insurance Services (0171-490 4163), Needham Jobson & Co (0171-839 8340), Taylor St Aubyn Insurance Services (01285 885885) and John Wimble (0171-415 0055).

A broker may recommend either a stand-alone collector's policy or a collector's add-on to a high net worth household policy. The former approach is only likely to be used for mega-collections. Nordstern's Private Collector's Policy, for example, has a minimum premium of £500 — which will cover £165,000 worth of wine.

Andrew Jobson, managing director of Needham Jobson & Co, said "Stand-alone policies are only suitable for collections worth at least £250,000 because insuring as part of an overall household package can avoid separate administration and survey charges."

A collector's add-on will have no minimum limits and will normally cost between £2 and £3 per £1,000 of wine insured. Its availability is, however, dependent on taking out a "high net worth" household policy, and this is likely to have a minimum limit for contents as a whole of £75,000.

Wine merchants' storage facilities tend to be geared towards those who have actually purchased from them. Berry Brothers & Rudd does not offer storage to non-customers. Justerini & Brooks does, but charges twice its normal rate. Nevertheless firms such as Trapps Cellars (0171-407 4422) and Octavian (01225 810735), which are devoted exclusively to storing fine wine, can take on collections as small as one case.

Octavian charges £8.88 per case per year for small collections and an initial handling charge of £1.18 per case. Comprehensive insurance, which provides replacement at current market value, is free.

Trapps Cellars charges £8.50 per case per year plus an initial fee of £3.10 per case. It charges extra for insurance at a cost of 1 per cent of wine value a year and replaces wine at declared values not market values.

EDMUND TIRBUTT



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Off-putting campaign

Barclaycard's latest advertising campaign has more than a whiff of the Eighties. With its plea to "Don't put it off, put it on", the company conjures up such memorable slogans of the free-spending, high-debt decade as: "Takes the waiting out of wanting" and other exhortations to borrow, whatever the consequences. You can almost hear someone using the word "yuppie" as a compliment.

But, behind the confidence and the quirky visual gags, you can sense a nervousness which no self-respecting Eighties copywriter would ever have let show. Sneaky American interlopers with low rates are stealing Barclaycard's most cherished customers: those who earn well but find it hard to live within their means. Unfortunately, these tend to be some of the same people who carefully compare rates of interest.

This weekend, Barclaycard launches its latest attempt to retain the solvent with expensive lifestyles (see page 64). In a piece of almost overwhelming generosity, it is cutting the rate for those who spend more than £500 a month to 18.9 per cent, still close to three times the rate on offer at some of the newcomers.

At the same time, Barclaycard says that the low rate terms of its US competitors cannot be sustained. However, those customers currently planning to take advantage of these offers are unlikely to be much moved by such warnings. They will be happy to take the savings while they are available and then move on to another good deal.

You will be relieved to hear that, although Barclaycard is anxious that we should not "put it off, but put it on", and is giving discounts to those who spend more, it is promoting the new facility only to those "clearly in control of their finances". In reality, only the high living who also suffer from profound inertia will be attracted by the scheme. The "clearly in control" will still look elsewhere.

Mig dogfight

A NUMBER of mortgage lenders are feeling very pleased with themselves, having done away with mortgage indemnity guarantee insurance (see page 49). Those who read between the lines of such announcements will, however, note that the lenders have not been as munificent as they claim. They were only forced into this move by the Halifax's decision to abolish the Mig. If *The Times* had not last week highlighted the development, its competitors would still be obliging borrowers to pay for this cover and pocketing 50 per cent of the premium in commission. They are also continuing to impose MIGs on some loan applicants, mostly first-time buyers, who are taking loans of more than 90 per cent of a property's value.

Even if not every customer has been spared an additional home-buying cost of £1,000 or more, the move to abolish the Mig should have some entertainment value. It has sparked a tiff between some converted building societies and their former mutual colleagues, always interesting to those who enjoy a little harmless squabbling. Building societies who seem loath to kiss goodbye to the Mig claim that the new banks are recouping the Mig saving through higher mortgage rates. This is much the same argument that the societies used against last year's demutualisation payouts when they claimed that customers ought to prefer a lifetime of small discounts to a large lump sum. Those Halifax savers and borrowers who last year received the minimum allocation of 200 shares now have a £1,807 stake in the new bank (see page 57). For the time being, they are probably more convinced of the value of a windfall in the hand.

Corporate Bond PEP

£6,000 invested five years ago would have produced a total income of £2,912 – tax free

What's more, your capital would now be worth £7,139.

Dresdner RCM Global Investors includes in the UK the unit trust businesses of Thornton and Kleinwort Benson Investment Management.

The Dresdner RCM Preference PEP* has a long track record of superior performance and, with a yield of 7.7%, delivers excellent returns. In summary:

- 1st quartile performance over 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 10 years.
- Tax-free income
- High yield with low capital risk
- Reduced risk of capital erosion – management charges deducted from income
- Low charges
- AA rating from Standard & Poor's Fund Research.

To find out more or phone us direct on **0800 317 573** quoting **T/142/3d** or fill in the coupon below.

*Formerly the Thornton Preference PEP

To Giles Hardy, Dresdner RCM Global Investors FREEPOST KE6804, London EC2B 3JE (No stamp required) T/142/3d

Name

Address

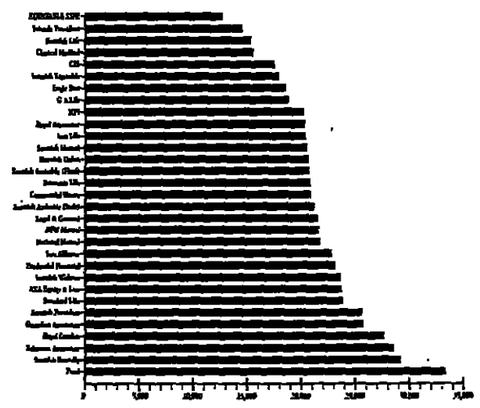
Postcode

Issued by Dresdner RCM Fund (UK) Ltd. Regulated by IMRO and the PIA. Members of the Dresdner Asset Management Marketing Group. Member of AUTIF. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back as much as you originally invested. Registered Office: 10 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 3LB. Source: Micropal. Dresdner RCM Funds (UK) Ltd. 01.7.96 over 5 yrs in the UK Fixed Interest Sector, gross income.

Dresdner RCM Global Investors

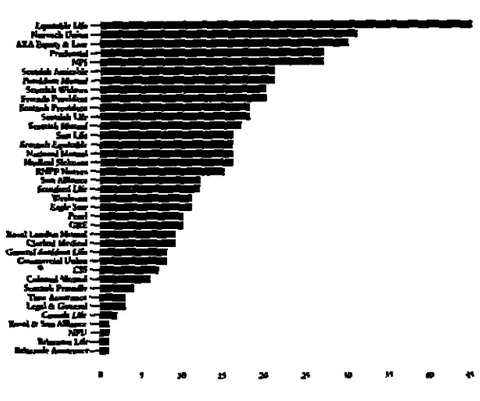
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A PENSION, MAKE SURE IT'S ONE OF THE BEST ON THE MARKET.

HOW MUCH YOU ARE CHARGED



The effect of charges (£)

INVESTMENT TRACK RECORD



No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1997

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1997

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

All companies are now required to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1997.

Not only are the effects of The Equitable's charges the lowest of the companies surveyed, but also the effects of our charges are almost half the average.

PERFORMANCE

For more than 20 years the industry journal, Planned Savings, has monitored the investment performance of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans maturing over different time periods.

Of the 56 performance tables published since surveys began in 1974, The Equitable has appeared in the top ten on no less than 45 occasions.

That consistency of performance covering two decades is unmatched by any other company.

Please note that not all companies have submitted returns to Planned Savings in every year.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

FLEXIBILITY

With an Equitable Personal Pension Plan you may vary your contributions without penalty. If you have to stop paying contributions your existing benefits are unaffected. So we don't tie you to specific contributions and provided the minimum contribution is made you may invest what you want when you want. Additionally, if you retire earlier or later than planned, there's no penalty. Your benefits will be the same as if you had chosen that date at the outset.

So, if you would like to learn more about The Equitable Personal Pension Plan by post and by telephone, return the coupon or call (0990) 38 48 58.

www.equitable.co.uk

FOR YOUR SECURITY YOUR TELEPHONE CALL MAY BE RECORDED
INFORMATION ABOUT WHO GIVES ADVICE AND WHO IS GIVEN CONFIDENTIALITY GROUP PRODUCTS
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR.

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans.
I am self employed ☐
I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

TMCM8B

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel: (Office) _____ Tel: (Home) _____

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐

Founded 1762

The Equitable Life

You profit from our principles

MONTHLY INCOME PLUS PEP

This man would like to give you £428 a year.



Hugh Everitt has over 23 years' experience in providing excellent returns for people like you.

When Hugh Everitt, our Monthly Income Plus PEP fund manager, invests your £6,000 you'll receive £35.70 in tax-free income every month – that's £428 a year or the equivalent of 7.14%, handy if you're approaching retirement! And when Individual Savings Accounts are introduced in April 1999, you can transfer your PEP free of charge into a CU ISA (subject to any overall ISA limit imposed). To find out more about the Monthly Income Plus PEP, call today or return the coupon below. Alternatively, contact your financial adviser.

7.14% PER ANNUM

"I'm retired and have a small pension, so the extra monthly income is really useful."

H.O., BOLTON.

Call 0800 00 44 33 quoting reference 2251

I would like to boost my monthly income. Please send me full details and an application form. Post to: Commercial Union Monthly Income Plus PEP, FREEPOST CV 1037, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9BR.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (first name) _____ (surname) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel No _____

If you would prefer not to receive information on any other Commercial Union products or services, please tick the box ☐

COMMERCIAL UNION

Returns quoted above are based on an offer price of 97.79p on 09/02/1998. Therefore the PEP will have been paying monthly returns at a rate of 7.14% gross per annum. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, therefore cannot anyone. Profits from the investment that you may not get back what you invest. To maximise income, potential for capital growth may be foregone. Any significant changes in interest rates would substantially affect the current value of the fund. Securities held may have a current value higher than their ultimate maturity value. The tax treatment of PEPs will be subject to future statutory change in April 1999. At that time the value of the savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will cease. Issued by Commercial Union Financial Management Investment Limited. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business. Registered Office: St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ. Members of the Commercial Union Marketing Group which is authorised by the Personal Investment Authority for Life Assurance and Pensions, Unit Trusts, OEITS and PEPs.

هكذا من الاصل

£200,000 Life Insurance for as little as 56p a day*

If you have regular bills to pay and a family to support it's understandable if you've put the issue of life insurance to the back of your mind. After all, cover can be costly, and you need money to hand.

But what if someone were able to offer you the level and quality of insurance that really makes a difference, for a daily cost that can be less than the price of a Sunday newspaper?

Then you'd have peace of mind you could afford right away.

With Term Assurance from General Accident, you can do just that. Because, for a fixed payment of only £17.00 a month (the equivalent of just 56p a day*) a General Accident Term Assurance Policy can provide you with £200,000 worth of insurance for ten years. Which means you can get on with your life knowing that, if the worst were to happen, the people you care for could get on with theirs.

So don't delay any longer. Give your loved ones peace of mind by calling General Accident now, or by completing the attached coupon. We'll work out a personal illustration just for you AND send you a stylish Parker pen with our compliments and without obligation. If you become a policyholder you will be entitled to choose a further free gift - a Black and Decker Cordless Screwdriver, a Sharp Personal Data Bank or a Casio Travel Clock Radio.

We reserve the right to offer alternative gifts. This offer applies if you are aged between 18 and 80 inclusive. *This is based on a healthy male non-smoker, aged 30 next birthday. The cost of cover will depend on the level and period of cover, in addition to your personal circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Any financial advice given will relate only to General Accident Life's products. General Accident Life is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. General Accident Life Assurance Limited, 2 Rougier Street, York, YO1 1HR.

GA

General Accident

CALL FREE. LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
0500 100 200

428/10

Send to: Term Assurance, General Accident, FREEPOST NEA 2070/1, Worksop S80 1BR

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

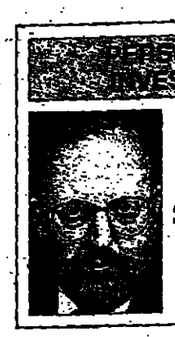
Telephone No (Day) (Evening)

Date of Birth / / Smoker ☐ Non-Smoker ☐

(Note: A non-smoker is a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months)

These details are required in order to provide you a personalised illustration. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you, by post or phone, about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated GA Group companies. Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information. For your security, your call with General Accident may be recorded and may be monitored. Registered in England No. 226742. General Accident Life Assurance Limited, 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR.

Seductive lure of the average



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Index-tracking is on the march. Big investment houses such as Barclays, State Side and even Legal & General offer specialist management services. And low-cost schemes for private investors are only a small battalion in this gathering army.

The latest survey from the National Association of Pension Funds reveals that two fifths of members invest at least part of their money indiscriminately in the shares making up a market index, so as to match the market average. Nearly a quarter of fund money tracks one index or another. Passive investing has become important. Pension funds already own 30 per cent of shares and account for a much higher proportion of new investment in markets.

You can see the appeal. For non-tracking investments, funds expect their City managers to beat the appropriate average, albeit typically by only 0.5 to 1 per cent a year. Yet it stands to reason that, if you and your rivals are buying most of the shares, most will fail to beat the average consistently. Extra fees and commissions paid in the attempt appear, in aggregate, to be wasted.

That reasoning led the Office of Fair Trading to argue that the upcoming stakeholder pension should be invested proportionately in constituents of a share index, instead of paying managers to pick shares. That would help to keep costs down, giving a chance of decent long-term returns on modest sums.

In some respects, this is only a systematic modern version of old habits. In the early days of unit trusts, for instance, most potential investors were scared of stock market risks. So some of the most popular trusts were those that invested in a broad selection of investment trusts, each of which in turn spread its cash around a wide variety of shares. That way you more or less had a bit of everything, including heavily diluted interests in foreign markets. Pension funds have also switched money from unit and investment trusts to index-tracking.

Joining the index army can save money on investing long-term in UK shares. But there is more to investing for pension funds or for individuals. The two key types of decision are where to invest and how to invest there. Index-tracking can take care of the how. But it does not tell your which markets to go for, how much to put in UK shares, bonds, deposits and property, or how much to put in which foreign markets.

Index-tracking does not make these "where" choices for you. The nearest you can get to avoiding some of these decisions, as a fund manager, is to follow the crowd "consensus" or, as a private investor, to stick to old-fashioned life assurance policies.

Most pension funds that favour index-tracking do not rely on it wholly. Typically, it accounts for 25 to 40 per cent of holdings. Trustees still want to beat the index. If you make sure that much of your performance is safely average, you can take more risks at the margin to improve returns. Many private investors do something similar, putting most long-term investment into a variety of trusts but owning some shares they choose personally.

This is as well. Efforts to beat the average may be doomed in aggregate, just as athletes on average always finish fourth in a field of seven. But, unless people try to win, companies will not be compared so keenly. Capital will earn lower returns if we back laggard companies as strongly as the best.

Tracking also begs the question of which index. Prices of shares joining or dropping out of the FTSE 100 share index are already distorted. The FTSE All-share index (actually only about 900) is more costly to follow. And what will happen if and when we join the euro? It would make no sense to follow a UK index, any more than people in the North should follow a regional index today.

The economy relevant to investors would be the euro economy and a suitable euro-index. That poses no problem for individuals, but the thought of the mighty stakeholder pension fund being switched en bloc from one set of shares to another sounds alarming. In the end, someone has to make choices.

Nationwide aims to widen the net

Susan Emmett looks at the latest developments in online banking

Nationwide is the first high street financial services organisation to announce it will become an Internet service provider (ISP), the electronic link between the user and the World Wide Web. The service, which will be available by the summer, is being developed in conjuction with BT. It will allow customers to access the building society's online banking facility as well as surf the rest of the Internet.

Customers, who must have a Nationwide account to get connected, will have online banking, Web and newsgroup access, five e-mail addresses per household, the option to create their own Web pages and a 24-hour helpline. Most of these services are available through other ISPs.

Nationwide promises that the service will be competitively priced. But with about 220 ISPs around, it will be competing in a crowded market. An ISP will charge anything between £5 and £15 a month depending on usage. Unlimited access always costs more.

Paul Kitchen, managing editor of *Which? Online*, said: "It's a very competitive market and the Nationwide are a little late coming into it. ISPs have been knocking around and doing quite well for at least a year. But it makes quite a good mix to get people on to the Net as an ISP and then on to your banking service. They have to have something unique that will attract people on to the service."

America Online (AOL) is the world's largest ISP with 400,000 subscribers in the UK and ten million in the US. It is closely followed by CompuServe with 300,000 in this country. *Which? Online*, also an ISP, has 20,000 customers.

Nationwide is hoping to tap into their substantial customer base of eight million and market the service on the strength of its brand name. Out of the one million people who have a current account with the building society, 40,000 use the PC and online banking service. Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "As an Internet service provider, and coupled with our online banking service, we will be able to offer our members the most up-to-date electronic access — a service which adds even more value to being a member of Nationwide."

With advances in technology and falling cost of PCs, increasing numbers of people are going online. Some 23 per cent of households currently have Internet access and 10 per cent expect to subscribe to the Internet. Costs will plummet when PCTV, the technology which enables users to access the Net by using their television sets, is launched, making the Internet even more accessible. One in four households is expected to be online by 2000.

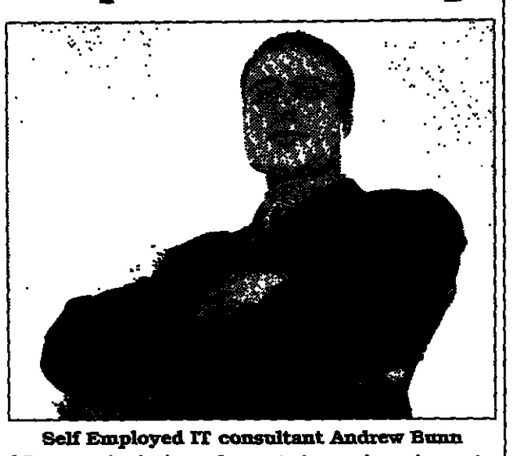
ADVERTISEMENT

PEPing up your pension painlessly

Self-employed IT consultant Andrew Bunn, 30, from Loddon, Norfolk, turned to Personal Equity Plans when looking for a flexible and easy way to supplement his pension. In order to achieve his goal of an early retirement.

From the many PEPs available in the marketplace, he chose a tracking PEP to cut out the risk of poor managed fund performance.

A single man, Andrew wished to boost his retirement income. "Previously I have only held deposit based savings and was cautious about more risky investment vehicles" he said. "However, building society interest rates were low and added little value to my savings. As I intend to leave my investment there until retirement, I could choose a long term option, and a PEP seemed ideal. I would not previously have considered investing in the stock market, but I felt that with a global tracking PEP the risk is lowered" he said.



Self Employed IT consultant Andrew Bunn

Index Tracking PEPs seek to follow very closely the performance of a market as a whole by investing in companies which make up the market index. Andrew also liked the unique opportunity of investing in overseas markets - so chose the Norwich Global Tracking PEP. This PEP invests across 2,500 companies representing all major world economies.

Andrew took up the regular saver option. "It's such a flexible way of saving - and with this PEP, unlike many other index tracking PEPs, I don't have additional charges for regular savings. I'm very happy with its financial performance, and in fact I'm increasing my monthly contribution because of this," he added.

Asian markets crisis could mean opportunities for UK investors

RECENT COVERAGE of the Asian stockmarkets crisis may imply it is a bad time for overseas investment - but this need not be the case argues investment product specialist John Norton from Norwich Union Portfolio Services.

"We need to keep the Asian fall-out in perspective. The extent of the impact is not going to be known, and hence felt, on one single day, so the negative effect on other stockmarkets may not be greatly significant. In particular the UK equity market appears to have put the Asian financial crisis firmly behind it and is resuming good headway. There could well be some positive aspects.

"This crisis could cause the major western countries to slow down slightly in terms of economic growth, and take the heat out of the inflation outlook for the western economies. By tempering the level of exuberance, it could provide a more stable base for long-term steady economic growth and positive stockmarket levels" said John Norton.

In addition, several factors make it a good time to consider investing in UK and overseas equities:

- major economies are increasing productivity
- economic monetary union is on the horizon, of which the UK membership should be received positively
- long term there is forecast a low level of inflation
- your full 97/98 tax year allowance for PEPs may be lost if you don't act in the next 6 weeks

"As always when investing overseas, you need to take care about over-exposure to the smaller, more volatile, markets - such as the Far East - which can produce spectacular results but equally can be very poor performers" continues John Norton.

"A product such as the Norwich Global Tracking Pep could be ideal in these circumstances. It takes account of market size, so most of the 25% overseas investment allowed is in the major, more mature markets - such as the United States.

A major benefit of a tracking fund is that it can be used to diversify your investment through a wide spread of shares - so the risk is further reduced. The tracking PEP seeks to follow very closely the performance of a market or an index as a whole, so you always have some money in the strongest performing market sectors.

John Norton explains. "Generally speaking, the greater the diversification, the lower the risk. The more diversified an equity portfolio is the less will be the impact of a single share. This is a basic principle of equity unit trusts which usually invest in at least 50 companies.

"The Norwich Global Tracking PEP invests across 2,500 companies including equities quoted on international stockmarkets. Due to the dealing costs involved, an investor would require a portfolio of several million pounds to do this economically by direct investment into equities. The Norwich Global Tracking PEP solves this problem by offering the chance to invest in this many companies from a minimum lump sum investment of £1,000 and a minimum regular savings contribution of £50 per month. You are therefore investing in these companies for an average of only 40p per company for a lump sum holding and 2p per company per month for a regular savings plan.

"Although there are risks with any investment, now could be a good time to take advantage of the tax efficient properties of investing in PEPs. Market experts can be over-cautious. For example when the Norwich Global Tracking PEP was launched at the beginning of July 1996 a number of market experts were advising caution on equities. However, despite this by the end of January 1998 the Norwich Global Tracking PEP had delivered an overall return of +34%*.

The Norwich Global Tracking PEP comprises two funds. 75% is invested in its UK Index Tracking Unit Trust, which tracks the FTSE Actuaries, All-Share Index. The remaining 25% is invested in the International Index Tracking Unit Trust, which aims to track the capital performance of the FT/S&P Actuaries World Index excluding the UK. For further information, call 0800 056 2450

*"Buy to sell gross income reinvested 1.7.96 - 31.1.98.



John Norton, Norwich Union Portfolio Services



Investing in the world's stockmarkets has never been simpler

NORWICH UNION Direct

Call us FREE on 0800 056 2450 quoting 1T159

for a free information pack on the Norwich Global Tracking PEP, or return the coupon below

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

I would like more information on the Norwich Global Tracking PEP.

Please complete this coupon in BLOCK CAPITALS and return it to Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR

Title: Initials:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Number

(Day):

(Evening):

Ref: 1T159

IMPORTANT NOTES For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of and income from PEPs may fall and you may not get back the amount invested. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. The future basis and rates of tax may vary. Information and advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. Norwich Union contracts are intended as medium to long term investments. A building society account is deposit based and suitable for the shorter term. The treatment of capital and the way in which your investment grows differs between the two forms of saving. A comparison would show a different position over the shorter term. The FTSE-A All-Share Index is compiled by The Financial Times Limited (FT) in association with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries ('the Actuaries'). However, none of them bear any responsibility for the construction, operation or performance of, nor do they endorse or promote, the Norwich UK Index Tracking Trust. Neither FT nor either of the Actuaries will be liable (whether in negligence or otherwise) to any investor or any person for any loss suffered as a result of investing in Norwich UK Index Tracking Trust. This fund is not in any way sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by FTSE International Limited ('FTSE') Standard and Poors (S&P) or Goldman Sachs (GS). Neither FTSE or S&P or GS makes any warranty or representation whatsoever, expressly or impliedly, either as to the results obtained from the use of FTSE/S&P Actuaries World Indices ('the Indices') and/or the figure at which the said Indices stands at any particular time on any particular day or otherwise. The Indices are compiled and calculated solely by FTSE and S&P. However, neither FTSE or S&P shall be liable (whether in negligence or otherwise) to any person for any error in the Indices and neither FTSE or S&P shall be under any obligation to advise any person of any error therein. FTSE is a registered trademark of The London Stock Exchange Limited and the Financial Times Limited and are used by FTSE International Limited under licence. Current Government proposals mean that from April 1999, PEPs will be replaced by a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). It is envisaged that you will be able to transfer upto £50,000 from existing PEPs into ISAs. Any investment above this amount could be subject to tax. Investors with PEP mortgages particularly, should review their situation when the rules are known.

Norwich Union Financial Services (UK) Limited No. 3011167. Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited No. 2509054. Registered in England. Registered Office 8 Surrey Street Norwich NR1 3NG. Members of the Norwich Union Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only sells its own Life Assurance Pensions and Unit Trusts Products. Norwich Union Portfolio Services Ltd is regulated by IMRO.

IN BRIEF

£50 buys entry to World Stock Markets

■ INVESTMENT in major world economies is now available in the UK, for a lump sum of just £1,000 or £50 a month regular savings plan, through a Global Tracking PEP from Norwich Union. One of the most diversified PEPs available, it invests in 28 stock markets and more than 2,500 companies. To benefit further from the performance of the world's leading companies, investors can add to their investment at any time up to a maximum of £6,000 per tax year.

Better than best of British

■ AN EXCELLENT opportunity now exists for investors wishing to spread their risk, as they can buy a PEP here which follows leading stockmarkets across the globe. Investors in Norwich Union's Global Tracking PEP will benefit from the performance of blue chip companies such as McDonalds, General Motors and the Mitsubishi Corporation. For more information, contact 0800 056 2450

Low Rates

■ IN THE competitive marketplace of Personal Equity Plans (PEPs), hidden charges can often spoil an attractive offer. One low cost option is Norwich Union's Global Tracking PEP, with no initial charge, and its annual charge is amongst the lowest on the market. For an information pack, call 0800 056 2450.

Tracking down Good Growth

■ INVESTORS who have suffered poor managed fund performance or are looking for diversification of their UK based portfolios, should look to the excellent growth potential of Norwich Union's Global Tracking PEP. This PEP comprises two funds - one tracks the FTSE Actuaries All-Share Index, and the remaining 25% is invested in the International Index Tracking Unit Trust, tracking the capital performance of the FT/S&P Actuaries World Index excluding the UK. With this global spread of investment, your PEP is more balanced than with UK only tracking PEPs.

Ethical unit trust for the green saver

Clean pensions may follow soon too, reports Marianne Curphey

Standard Life, one of the biggest names in UK life and pensions, has thrown its weight behind the rapidly growing ethical investment sector with the launch of its own UK Ethical Unit Trust.

Ethical investments run by companies such as Friends Provident have been around for a long time but Standard Life says its new venture has been prompted by demand from customers and independent financial advisers (IFAs).

TRUST WATCH

The trust will support housing or environmental projects and avoid buying shares of companies which damage and pollute the environment.

The pressure for investment with a conscience came from IFAs, who sell 85 per cent of Standard Life's business and who reported that customers were increasingly interested in the sector.

In addition, individual savers and some larger companies with an environmental or charitable focus told Standard Life they wanted a pension which did not invest in companies which polluted or operated in countries where the political and civil rights of local people were violated. Standard Life plans to launch a pension based on ethical criteria later this year.



M&S: approved shares

FTSE 100 companies barred from the trust include BAT Industries (tobacco manufacturers); BOC Group (produces industrial gases); Diageo (alcohol manufacturer); PowerGen (electricity generation) and Shell.

Also excluded are those companies which test their products on animals, produce pornographic material, produce or sell weapons, own or operate nuclear power stations and are involved in gambling.

There are also positive criteria which the unit trust managers will follow. They will actively invest in companies which make a positive contribution to the environment, promote sound employment practices and promote products and services which benefit the environment or human life or which are basic necessities.

Standard Life has decided, with the help of the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS), to invest in Asda, Sainsbury, Orange, Next, Marks & Spencer, BG and Bank of Scotland.

Colin Ledlie, the life insurer's assistant general manager marketing, said: "Ethical investment is still a very small part of the total savings market but we believe it will grow at a faster rate than the market overall."

Such funds, however, have been criticised for underperformance in the past because their investment portfolio is more narrow than average. Some of the companies they exclude have been star performers of the FTSE 100 index.

Mr Ledlie is aware of this problem. "We do not want to be just the best of a bad bunch," he said. "Although we are keen to perform well in our own sector, we also want to perform well against the benchmark of the general UK growth sector." The unit to be launched on Monday, will have a minimum lump sum investment of £1,000 with top-up payments of £500. The minimum regular contribution is £50 per month, and initial charge 3 per cent, discounted to 2 per cent until May 15. The annual management charge is 0.95 per cent.

The trust will be managed by Jeff Saunders, manager of Standard Life's UK Equity Growth Trust.


Is this the most ethical hotel room ever? A Swedish igloo with bedrooms at minus 35C, which melt in the summer

Simply TESSA

Increased Rate from 14th February 1998

7.95% p.a.

plus a bonus of up to 5% of the first year's investment

Equivalent Rate

8.37% p.a.

For leaflet and application form
Tel: 0345 88 77 77 (local call rate)

Web: http://www.simplypostal.co.uk
E-mail: mail@simplypostal.co.uk
the by post only division of Lambeth Building Society

To: Simply Postal, FREEPOST, London SE1 2BR
Please send full details of Simply TESSA

Name
Address
Postcode TT14/2

THE PEP DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

SAVE up to 5% on a PEP

This 27 page A4 guide is ESSENTIAL reading for all PEP investors. It lists performance & charges as well as the discounts we can offer on hundreds of Unit Trust PEPs. If you want to obtain up to £300 discount/cashback on a full PEP Send for details TODAY.

CHECK YOUR PEPS ARE PERFORMING
CHECK THEIR CHARGES ARE COMPETITIVE
NEW AUTUMN EDITION
DISCOUNTS ON TRANSFERS
SAVE UP TO £300

Normally £3, currently available FREE of charge
FOR A FREE COPY PLEASE CALL FREE ON

0800 850 661

Issued by
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD
Kendal House, 4 Brighton Mews, Clifton Bristol BS8 2NX
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Dealing ripe for change

Fidelity Brokerage Services, the execution-only dealer, announced in January that it will close its doors on February 28 leaving 15,000 clients seeking a new broker.

While one US group packs its bags, another, Edward Jones, awaits regulatory approval to launch the first of a planned 400 offices in the UK. It aims to become a high-profile provider of financial services, including share dealing.

Edward Jones has 4,000 brokers operating across the US and Canada. It plans a similar operation in the UK with high street advisory centres each staffed by a licensed broker and an administrator.

"The brokers will advise on the full range of investments which we feel are appropriate. They will offer the best of what an independent financial adviser provides, and the best of what a private client stockbrokers does," said Allan Anderson, managing director of Edward Jones in the UK.

An initial eight sites have been identified, with the first expected to open in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, Tunbridge Wells in Kent, and Bath. Regulatory approval is expected within the next month.

Fidelity is closing its dealing services after ten years. Its sister operation, Fidelity Investments, the fund management group, is not affected.

Although it has denied that its decision to close is related to its run-in with the Securities and Investment Board, Fidelity Brokerage's reputation was dented after SIB fined it £200,000 in 1996 and temporarily barred it from taking new business because of computer problems and complaints about poor customer service.

Fidelity's clients have until April 5 to decide what to do with their holdings. A special deal has been arranged for them to transfer their business across electronically to Barclays Stockbrokers so that they can continue dealing without interruption.

Rival dealing services have been swift to make overtures to Fidelity customers. "We felt it was important that the clients knew there was a choice," said Guy Knight, head of communications at Charles Schwab, formerly Sharelink. "We set up a helpline the day after Fidelity announced the closure and we have taken around 2,000 calls. So far, some 15 per cent of these clients have transferred their business and we expect quite a few more," he said.

NatWest Stockbrokers also reports interest from Fidelity clients, while YorkSHARE, the telephone broking arm of the Yorkshire Building Society, says new clients have been transferring from Fidelity.

The closure is an indication of the future direction of the execution-only market.

"The business is changing dramatically and we will see rationalisation, with the big players becoming more dominant," said Justin Urquhart-Stewart, director of Barclays Stockbrokers.

Edward Jones: 0171 886 8500;
Charles Schwab: 0121 236 6363;
Barclays Stockbrokers: 0141 352 3000;
Yorkshire: 01274 736 736;
Natwest Stockbrokers: 0171 895 5018.

CLAIRE STEWART

IN BRIEF

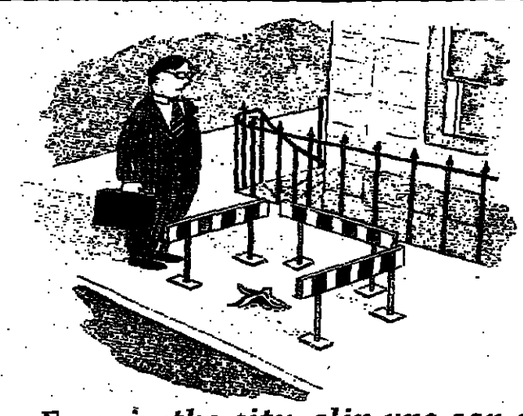
£50 buys entry to World Stock Markets

Better than best of British

Low Rates

Tracking the Good Globe

TAX-FREE PEP



Even in the city, slip ups can so easily be avoided.

If you're not careful, those first steps into the tax-free savings world of PEPs can seem a trifle complex and, worse still, paved with hidden drains on your investment. But there is a simple way around the problem. The Scottish Investment Trust PEP.

With only one flat charge of £30 (plus VAT) each year, regardless of how many PEPs you have with us, there's no danger of you getting less than full value on your investment.

An investment that performs out of its skin with consistently higher returns from a truly global basket of equities.

So make it easy on yourself. Simply fill in the coupon or call our FREEFONE NUMBER. It could prove very fruitful indeed.

- NO ENTRY COSTS, EXIT FEES OR MINIMUM TERM
- ANNUAL FEE JUST £30 PLUS VAT
- FROM JUST £100 PER MONTH
- ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INVESTMENT TRUSTS
- GLOBAL INVESTMENT SPREAD
- CONSISTENTLY HIGHER RETURNS
- LOW COST SHARE EXCHANGE

THE SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

INVESTMENT MADE EASY

Please send me the SIT PEP brochure and application form.

NAME (MR/MRS/MS)
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
ADDRESS
POSTCODE

Send this coupon to: Investor Services
SIT Savings Ltd, FREEPOST, EH882, 6 Albyn Place, Edinburgh EH2 4BR.
For a brochure on our CHARGE FREE investment and Savings Scheme tick here. ☐

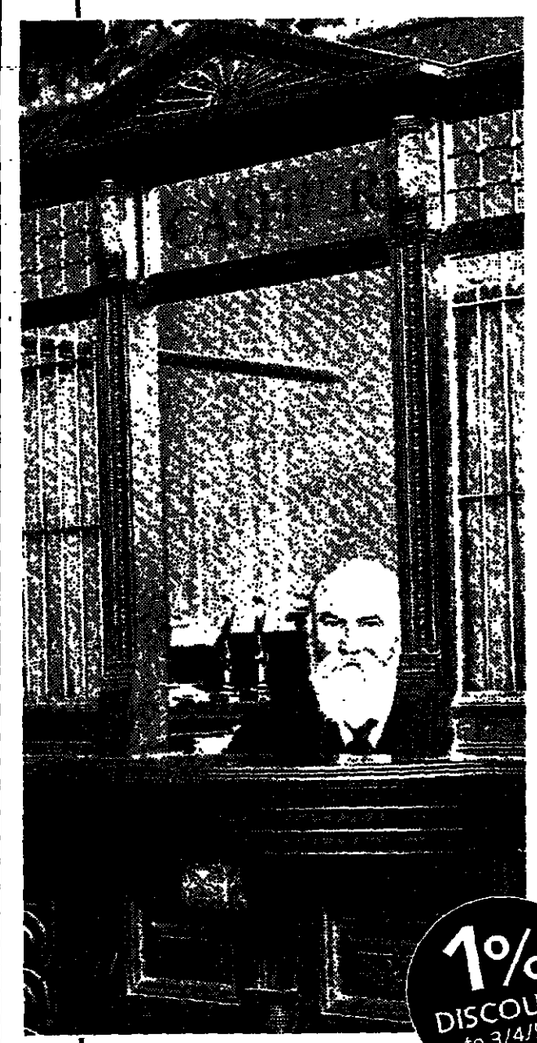
TT 14/2/98 PP

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE 0800 424422
or e-mail us on: heather@sit.co.uk
or return the coupon above - no stamp is required. No salesman will call.

Advertisement issued by SIT Savings Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Scottish Investment Trust PLC and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

FINANCIAL FUND

Our star performer



If this is your image of the banking world, think again. The Framlington Financial Fund invests only in banks and other financial sector stocks and its performance has been anything but dull.

The Framlington Financial Fund
TOP 10%
performance of all unit trusts over
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 years
and since launch*

Investments in the fund have grown by 160% over the last 5 years, and by 30% in 1997 alone.* We believe that this exceptional performance is set to continue.

Before you make your PEP decision, ask your Financial Adviser for details or ring

0345 023138

1% DISCOUNT to 3/4/98

Please send me details of the Framlington Financial Fund and PEP. Return the coupon to: Framlington Unit Management Limited, Freepost, P.O. Box 2, Tuxyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 8BR.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____

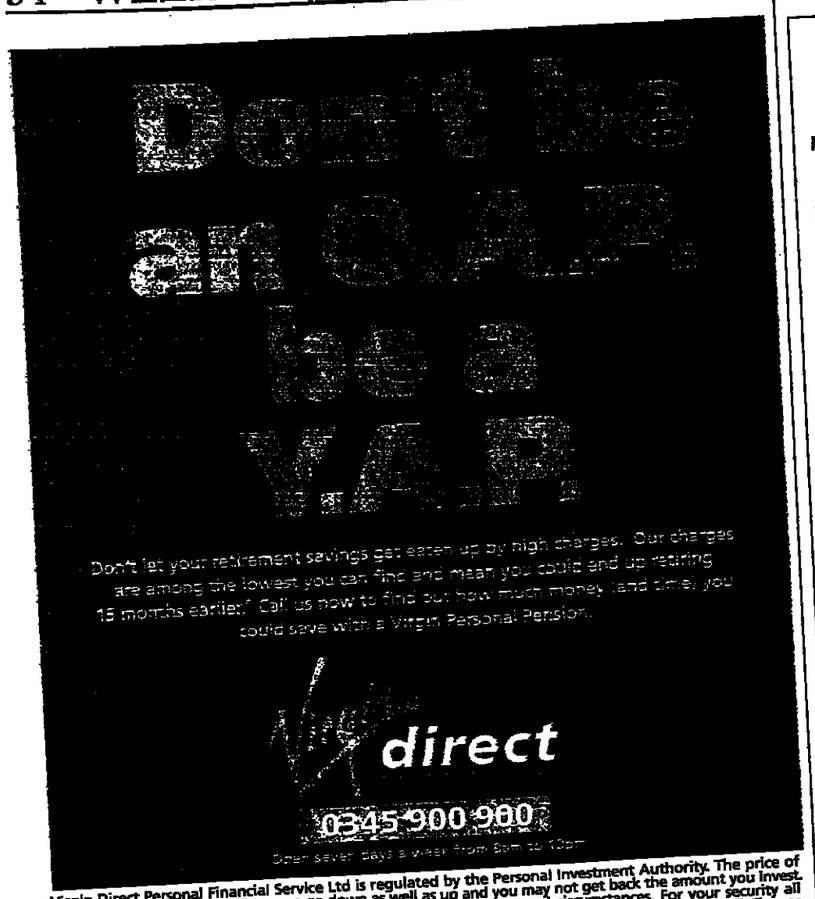
If you do not wish to receive details of Framlington products in future, please tick the box ☐

TI 14/2/98 FF

* Source: Micropal, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1 January 1998. Launch date 13 October 1986. Issued by Framlington Unit Management Limited, member of the Framlington Marketing Group. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of AUTIF. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of the Fund's overseas investments. Investment in single sector funds offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk. The Government has announced that from 1999 tax advantaged schemes, such as PEPs and TESSAs, will be replaced with a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Details of the ISA are currently subject to consultation and the final form is not yet known.

framlington

هكذا من الاصل



Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored. *Source: Savings Market, Autumn 1997. Figures based on monthly savings of £250 gross over 20 years at 9% growth compared with the highest charging provider.

Cost cutting affects pensions

Caroline Merrell says money-purchase plans may replace final-salary schemes

The Government has depleted the value of company pension schemes by increasing administration costs and cutting the tax relief available to pension fund managers.

The annual report from the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) revealed that the changes to pension scheme administration and tax relief on pension funds were pushing more and more employers into offering money-purchase schemes rather than final-salary schemes.

The former type of scheme, where the benefits are linked to the amount that the employer and employee pay in, are deemed to be less generous than final-salary schemes.

Under these schemes employees build up rights to a pension linked to a percentage of final salary. These rights are guaranteed under the rules of the company scheme.

These liabilities become harder to meet if the costs of the schemes are increased and potential investment returns cut.

Already some of Britain's biggest pension schemes — such as those offered by Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals company, and W H Smith — are moving towards offering money-purchase schemes rather than final-salary schemes.

The NAPF survey revealed that about 50 companies had set up money-purchase arrangements during the year. The association surveyed 613 companies which had total pension assets of £370 billion. These pension schemes covered nearly two thirds of the total number of company pension scheme members.

The trend towards offering money-purchase schemes could have a detrimental effect on the level of pension anticipated by those in occupational schemes. According to the NAPF, the amount contributed by employers to final-salary schemes is nearly half the amount contributed to money-purchase arrangements.

Dr Ann Robinson, director-general of the NAPF, warned the Government that any further changes that increased the costs of company pensions could turn employers against offering them altogether. She said: "If the workmen continue drilling holes in company schemes, the whole edifice could become unstable."

If the workmen continue drilling holes in company schemes, the whole edifice could become unstable

The survey found that eroding the ability of pension schemes to reclaim the advanced corporation tax (ACT) credit had pushed some schemes to the point where they could not meet their potential liabilities. According to the survey, 34 per cent of the public sector pension schemes would not be able to meet projected liabilities. Just over a quarter of the private pension schemes surveyed were only slightly in surplus. These figures highlighted the fact that the change to ACT rules had cut pension scheme surpluses considerably.

The survey also revealed the reticence on behalf of some companies to accept members who had mistakenly opted out or transferred from the pension scheme. This reluctance on behalf of company schemes is causing delays for those seeking to compensate thousands of people who were mis-sold personal pensions at the end of the 1980s.

The results of the survey did show, however, that schemes were beginning to adopt slightly more liberal attitudes towards non-married members.

Conventionally, the widow's or widower's pension in occupational schemes, usually half the member's pension, is not paid out to common-law partners.

The survey showed that 4 per cent of schemes will now pay out the pension to a common-law partner, while 2 per cent of public schemes will do the same.

Two thirds of private sector schemes would pay out at the discretion of the trustee.

Thirty five per cent of private schemes will pay out benefits to the partners of those in same-sex relationships, while 16 per cent of public sector schemes will pay benefits to those in same-sex relationships.

The survey also found that many schemes were operating a more flexible attitude to retirement age. Eighty seven per cent of private sector schemes and 97 per cent of public sector schemes will allow members to work past normal retirement age, and offered a range of flexible benefits.

JF JAN INCOME PAID
JF FEB INCOME PAID
JF MAR INCOME PAID
JF APR INCOME PAID
JF MAY INCOME PAID
JF JUN INCOME PAID
7.5% pa TAX FREE
Monthly income from Johnson Fry.
A high level of tax free income – and monthly income payments too. That's the market leading combination offered by the new Johnson Fry Monthly Income PEP.
If you have £3,000 or more to invest and are looking for a unit trust or PEP investment which aims to offer a good monthly income and manage your capital, call us now on the number below or return the coupon for your copy of the brochure.
0800 783 4343
(Call free 24 hrs)
JF Johnson Fry
JF JUL INCOME PAID
JF AUG INCOME PAID
JF SEP INCOME PAID
JF OCT INCOME PAID
JF NOV INCOME PAID
JF DEC INCOME PAID
Johnson Fry Securities Limited, 20 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PZ. Internet: http://www.johnsonfry.iii.co.uk
*Target gross annual yield as at 12 January 1998.
Please send me a copy of your 'Monthly Income PEP' brochure. Return to Johnson Fry, FREEPOST, Bristol BS36 7PT. Telephone 0800 783 4343.
Title _____ Name _____
Address _____ Postcode _____ TM14/02/98
Important Note - This advertisement is issued by Johnson Fry Securities Limited, regulated by SFA and a Member of The London Stock Exchange. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. To maintain income, some potential for capital growth may be foregone. We cannot guarantee to sustain current income levels. Securities held may have a higher value than their ultimate maturity value. In particular, any change in interest rates would substantially affect the capital value of the Trust. Because of the initial charge you may lose money if you withdraw in the early years. You should regard an investment in the Trust as a long term investment. PEPs and unit trusts may not be suitable investments for everyone and if you have any doubts you should seek independent advice before investing. The value of the current PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. A consultative paper recently issued by the Government on the new Individual Savings Account (ISAs) will, if enacted in its current form, withdraw the tax reliefs available to PEPs from 5 October 1999. It is, however, proposed that PEPs and TESSAs up to a value of £50,000 per person may be transferred into ISAs.
Data Protection Act 1984. Your name will be added to a mailing list which may be used by us or associated companies to keep you well informed of any new and existing products. If you prefer not to receive such details, please tick the box ☐

Compulsion for pensioners



Compulsion may not prove popular with those forced to save for their pensions as other countries have found

Compulsion is not a word that the Government is happy to use. It is, however, a word that it may have to embrace, if it is to ensure that the hallmark of the next century is not a pensioner population living in poverty.

Last year the Government launched a review of the entire pensions issue. It also unveiled loose plans for so-called stakeholder pensions, which aim to bring pensions to those who have no access to one.

The results of the review will be revealed in the next few months. One of the most important aspects of the review is the issue of compulsion: should people be forced to put aside a proportion of their earnings into a second-tier pension to back up any state benefits accrued?

A report from Demos, the independent think-tank, published this week, points out that compulsion may be difficult to implement because the public may react to the idea of compulsion in the same way as it did to the poll tax.

According to Demos: "Even with influential supporters, greater compulsion is by no means certain. When New Zealand held a referendum in September 1997 on whether to introduce compulsory pensions, 92 per cent of people voted against the measure. If such popular rejection occurred in Britain, compulsory pensions would be as unsustainable as the poll tax."

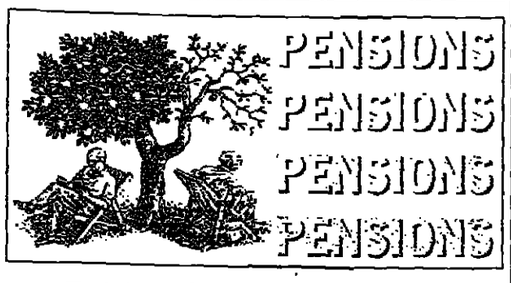
Demos also pointed out that compulsion was not always completely successful in the countries where it had been introduced. In Italy, for instance, where compulsion is in force, many simply avoid payment altogether.

The report does believe that some sort of compulsion will be necessary. It could work, it suggests, if people put 11 per cent of their earnings into a scheme until they ensured a pension of at least 30 per cent of average male earnings throughout their retirement. This, it suggests, should be combined with a basic state pension of 10 per cent.



Terms and Conditions available on request. *Gross p.a. - the rate of interest paid yearly without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non-taxpayers. The rate quoted applies to balances of £50,000 and over. Rates may vary. Standard Life Bank Limited is a company registered in Scotland (number SC173685) Registered Office: Standard Life House,30 Lothian Road Edinburgh EH1 2DH. Standard Life Bank Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Standard Life Assurance Company and is a member of the Standard Life Group of companies. For your protection, telephone calls will be recorded. We may also monitor telephone calls to help us improve customer service. Standard Life Bank Limited is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the Scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment in any one depositor of £18,000 for BCU 20,000 if greater). Further details of the Scheme are available on request.

NatWest PEPs
50%off.*
Now you can make even more of your savings.
Do you want the potential to earn attractive returns on your savings that are completely tax-free?
Then consider investing in a NatWest Unit Trust PEP.
Call Direct 0800 33 11 56
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm
Weekends 10am to 4pm (excluding bank holidays)
Whether you want to invest for growth with our Fund of Funds PEP, or income with the Extra Income PEP, a NatWest PEP can help you make even more of your savings.
What's more, invest £6,000 now and you can enjoy a 50% discount off your initial charge.*
But, don't forget that all applications for the current tax year must be received by 4 April 1998.
Applying for a NatWest PEP is easy, call now for more details or complete and return the coupon.
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Initial
Surname
Address
Postcode
Daytime Tel. no.
30762
NatWest
More than just a bank
The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back your original investment. The level of yield may be subject to fluctuation and is not guaranteed. We may monitor and record your telephone calls with us to maintain and improve our service. Tax credits will no longer be reclaimable in a PEP from 6th April 1999. Other tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new Individual Savings Account. The value of current tax relief depends on individual circumstances. If you have doubts about your tax position, you should seek professional advice. Issued and approved by Gartmore Investment Limited. Authorised unit trusts are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. Both companies are regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the NatWest and Gartmore Marketing Group.



PIA turns spotlight on income drawdowns

Controversial products that allow retired people to delay taking the whole benefit of their pension are to come under scrutiny amid fears that they may have been mis-sold.

The products, known as income drawdown, have attracted criticism because of the high levels of commission paid to financial advisers who sell them. The Personal Investment Authority, the pensions watchdog, has launched an investigation into how they are sold.

Its chairman, Joe Palmer, has voiced fears that the levels of commission paid could tempt advisers to sell to people who would be better off with conventional annuities which pay a steady stream of income based on the value of the entire plan.

Even some IFAs and insurance companies agree and have called for a cap on commission and strict guidelines for how these plans can be sold.

It is a legal requirement that 75 per cent of a retiring person's personal pension fund must be used to buy an annuity. The other 25 per cent can be taken as a tax-free lump sum.

But since 1995 there has been an alternative option — pension income drawdown. Money is drawn from the pension fund which is invested with an insurance company. Unlike an annuity the investor can keep control of the fund, allowing it to grow, and in theory provide an annuity-bearing income.

An annuity, on the other hand, gives investors an annual income in exchange for the pension fund.

Drawdown allows the purchase of an annuity to be delayed until the optimum moment instead of being forced to buy when annuity rates are low and being stuck with a much lower income than could be enjoyed.

The problem highlighted by Mr Palmer is that the commission offered on annuities, typically 1 to 2 per cent, is much lower than that offered on pension drawdown plans, typically around 5 per cent and sometimes much more.

Pension drawdown plans are also complicated and require a great deal of ongoing servicing and advice which brings in still more commission.

Mr Palmer said: "Commission on drawdowns varies widely between companies. This may give rise to biased advice. The commission on drawdowns is also considerably higher than that available on the alternative annuities. This may be explained by the significantly increased level of service at outset and on an ongoing basis which needs to be provided. But this also may give rise to bias."

Most companies demand a minimum pension fund of £100,000 to invest in a pension drawdown plan, accepting they are usually unsuitable for smaller investors.

But even people for whom pension drawdown ought to be a good option can find themselves worse off than with an annuity. To make it successful the investor should be no worse off at the time of buying their annuity — they must be bought when the investor reaches 75 at the latest — than they would have been if they had bought an annuity instead of a drawdown plan.

To do this a large proportion of the pension fund needs to be invested in shares, which is risky because they can fall in value or simply fail to grow enough.

High commission levels will eat into the fund and make these goals extremely difficult.

Paul Tinslay of Carrington Investment Consultants says high commission means boosting the returns from investments to levels so high that drawdown commission is set at 2 per cent, with half a per cent each year for monitoring the fund's progress.

Nick Conyers, a director of Pearson Jones, the independent financial adviser, says: "It is the next scandal. Drawdown is a minefield and those who have less interest in their clients and more in their income are putting people into drawdowns for huge commissions.

"If you only get 1 or 2 per cent with an annuity and up to 6 for a drawdown, that is a huge incentive but it is immoral and will backfire."

Reputable advisers can and often will take less commission than the maximum. Andrew Black, marketing manager pensions at Standard Life, says: "We only offer a maximum initial commission of 3 per cent, which is low, and many advisers take less than that." But he adds: "I do agree that commission levels are too high."

Tony Sofomon, Eagle Star marketing manager to IFAs, defends the product. He says: "What better product is there for a retired company director with time on his hands to be able to oversee?"

One thing that may reassure worried personal pension holders is that financial advisers are required to declare how much commission they will receive from a product.

It can be worth haggling or asking if the adviser can provide a fee-based service where the customer pays upfront for the advice.

Advisers must also provide a letter explaining in simple terms why they have recommended a product and company. Failure to do so can lead to heavy fines.

JIM MOORE

The Corporate Bond PEP

Legal & General's low costs provides better value and reduces risk

Legal & General have led the way in providing low cost, high performance PEPs to our customers.

CURRENTLY PAYING 7.1% P.A. TAX-FREE INCOME

LOWEST COST – ONLY 0.5% ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE

NO INITIAL FEE

NO WITHDRAWAL FEE

Over the years, our determination to provide outstanding value for money has meant that today, Legal & General Investment Management has in excess of £54 billion under management.

Now, we are delighted to introduce the latest improvement to our PEP range – Legal & General's Corporate Bond PEP.

Once again, we've delivered unbeatable value, providing the lowest cost diversified Corporate Bond PEP on the market with annual management charges of only 0.5%, with no initial or withdrawal fee.

So, for a regular, high tax-free income on your savings find out more about Britain's best value Income PEP today. Just complete and return the coupon, call 0500 11 66 22 now or visit our website at www.LandG.com

NO COST LEGAL & GENERAL ISA CONVERSION †

PROVIDER	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE*	RUNNING YIELD TO DATE*
Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP	0.5%	7.1%
Fidelity Moneybuilder Income PEP	0.7%	6.7%
Virgin Income PEP	0.7%	6.6%
M&G Corporate Bond PEP	1.25%	6.4%

Find out more now – phone free 0500 11 66 22

FREEPHONE 8am TO 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am TO 5pm WEEKENDS PLEASE QUOTE REF: C/DL043

For your protection and to enable us to deal with any queries that may arise calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored.

YES – I would like more information about Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP. Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC046, Cardiff CF1 1YW.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Forenames

Address

Postcode Date of birth / /

Tel. No: Home Tel. No: Work

If you already have a PEP investment, please tick here ☐. CDL043

We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely and then we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this call/offer selected information please tick here ☐

Legal & General

Subject to Government regulation. †Source: LGIM 09/02/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance: both capital and income values may fluctuate as well as up and you may get back the amount invested. All charges quoted and costs apply to PEPs investing wholly in Unit Trusts. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2179888. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representatives of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. A member of AUTIF. Investors should be aware that unlike cash in a deposit account the capital value of investments in Fixed Interest Trusts is not guaranteed. The gross redemption yield on the Fixed Interest Trust was ... as at 9 February 1998. The Government published a consultative document in December 1997 on proposals for Individual Savings Accounts to be launched in April 1999. The terms and limits for converting an existing PEP into an ISA are likely to be considered as part of this consultation.

If you move job, our pension moves with you.

Our pension arrangements let you change job,

take a career break or become self-employed, all without penalty. Your first good move?

Why not call for no-fuss advice or information without obligation.

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 28BB516

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.



For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows' products. Issued by Scottish Widows Unit and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE ACCOUNTS

	£1 %	£500 %	£1k %	£2.5k %	£5k %	£10k %	£25k %	£50k %	£100k %
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 845 0829	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	7.05	7.10	7.15	7.20	7.20
	Interest paid on anniversary. Maximum investment £2m A/c launced 02/05/95 Instant access postal account. Minimum withdrawal £100 6.90% applies from £100. Telephone instructions accepted								
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	6.76	6.76	6.90	6.96	7.10	7.26	7.26	7.30	7.30
	Interest paid on anniversary. A/c launced 05/01/98 Instant access. All transactions via BACS. Savings may be pooled Telephone instructions accepted								
Safeway 0800 995995	4.00	6.75	7.30	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40
	Interest paid yearly / April 1. Maximum investment £2m. A/c launched 19/01/98 Instant access postal account. Operated by Abbey National. Minimum £50. Telephone instructions accepted								
Tesco 0345 *104010*	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
	Interest paid yearly. A/c launced 22/09/97 Instant access. Cash card available. 6 free withdrawals per quarter, then 50p each. Telephone instructions accepted. By post								
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 *405060*	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
	Interest paid yearly / February. A/c launced 19/02/97 Instant access. Cash card available Telephone instructions accepted.								
Direct Line 0181 667 1121	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80	6.15	7.00	7.05	7.15	7.25
	Interest paid yearly / March. All transactions via BACS. Savings may be pooled Telephone instructions accepted								
Prudential Banking 0800 000222		4.00	4.00	4.00	4.35	4.50	4.90	5.20	5.20
	Interest paid on anniversary. Maximum investment £5m Instant access. Minimum withdrawal £100 Telephone instructions accepted. By post								

Source: Moneyfacts Online

Supermarkets offer fresh deal

Once customers of Halifax and the other demutualising building societies received their free shares last year, it was predicted that the fight for savers would be waged between these new banks and the remaining mutuals.

But another force in the savings market is snatching investors from the established institutions. The banking divisions of the life insurers and supermarkets, with their above-average rates, are increasingly the choice of those who wish to organise their savings by phone or post or a mixture of the two.

These new operators often offer generous rates for small savers, a group currently neglected by many mutuals and new banks. The Halifax Liquid Gold account pays 0.5 per cent on a balance of £50. Tesco, by contrast, offers 6.5 per cent. The insurers and the supermarkets are able to offer better rates, principally because they have invested in new technology and do not have to pay high street rents.

Banking with a life insurer

These have their motives for offering such healthy rates. The banks have been encroaching on their traditional markets and so to fight back they have in turn gone after the maturity money of endowment plans which has previously always been paid into bank accounts.

Some of this money is used to pay off mortgages, but the balance often remains with the bank or building society, which then cross-sells other products to the customer.

The industry as a whole is likely to be paying three times the current maturity money by the next century, and is loath to see it disappear into a high street bank account.

Standard Life, the UK's largest mutual insurer which launched its bank last month, will be paying out £775 million this year in maturity money, up from £600 million in 1997.

Four leading insurers now offer savings accounts: Direct Line, Prudential, Scottish Widows and Standard Life.

Standard Life Bank (0345 555657) has already opened 25,000 new instant access accounts. Jim Spowart, director of the bank, said: "There is no doubt we are attracting money away from the coffers of the high street banks and building societies. This is not new money."

Standard Life plans to introduce notice accounts and savings accounts for business customers by the end of this year. Its instant access account pays between 6.75 per cent (£50) and 7.3 per cent on balances of £100,000-plus.

Legal & General (0500 111200) pays 7.15 per cent on balances of £2,500 for instant access which rises to 7.2 per cent on sums of £10,000 or more.

The Scottish Widows Bank (0845 8450829) instant access postal account has a rate of 6.9 per cent on balances of £100 or more. This rises to 7.05 per cent on balances of £5,000, to 7.1 per cent on £10,000, and to 7.15 per cent on £25,000. The top rate of 7.2 per cent is paid on amounts of £50,000 or more. The Scottish Widows 60-day notice account (minimum investment £100) pays from 7.05 per cent to 7.55 per cent.

Rates at Direct Line (0181-667 1121), which this week was the centre of controversy over claims in its advertising (see below), vary between 5.8 per cent (£1 to £4,999) to 7.25 per cent on £100,000 or more.

Prudential Banking (0800 000222) is decidedly less generous. Its instant-access postal account pays 4 per cent on balances of £500. Even those with £100,000-plus receive just 5.2 per cent.

Banking with a supermarket

Safeway (0800 995 995) is the latest supermarket chain to offer leading savings. To date, the new account appears not to have been beset by the administration problems that characterised Tesco's banking debut.

The Safeway Direct Savings account, operated by Abbey National, pays 4 per cent on balances of £50, 6.75 per cent on balances of £500 plus, 7.30 per cent on balances of £1,000 plus and 7.4 per cent on balances of £2,500 plus.

Sainsbury's Bank (0500 405060), a joint venture with Bank of Scotland, offers a flat rate of 6.5 per cent on investments of £1 or more. Tesco (0345 104010), in partnership with Royal Bank of Scotland, offers the same rate, also on balances of £1 or more.

ANNE ASHWORTH AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

ISA PROMISE: FREE PEP TRANSFER

YOU'VE GOT TWO PEPS LEFT. SO PICK THE RIGHT ONE.

	Initial PEP charge	Average annual growth (5yrs)†
SAVE & PROSPER GROWTH	3%*	22.1%
Fidelity International PEP	3.25%	15.9%
Perpetual PEP Growth	5.25%	12.9%
Morgan Grenfell Int. Growth	3.00%	10.6%
Jupiter International Growth	5.00%	10.5%

*Subject to 0.5% Government Stamp Duty.

With ISAs coming in 1999, you have just two tax years left to make the most of your PEP allowance. Our advice? Look long-term. Look at our Growth PEP since 1993: a thumping 20.1% average return every single year. Look at our initial charge: just 0.5% Government Stamp Duty. And look at the other top PEPs we beat on both counts. Then look forward. Because, whatever form ISAs take, we'll transfer your PEP holding completely free of charge. To find out more about the PEP that's looking way ahead, call us now.

LINES OPEN 8am TO 9pm, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

0800 829 100

SAVE & PROSPER

www.prosper.co.uk

On 24.5.96 the objective of the Fund (formerly known as Scottbits) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector.

†All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested over 5 years to 01.01.98. Source: Micropal. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are not guaranteed; their value will depend on individual circumstances. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. It has been announced that from 6th April 1999 it will not be possible to invest in a PEP. In the meantime you will not be disadvantaged by investing in a PEP. Save & Prosper is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. 1952/008



James Stewart found the promise of instant access to money caused a few problems in *It's a Wonderful Life*

Row over marketing tool surfaces in an instant

Anne Ashworth on an advertising ruling with implications for postal accounts

Two innocuous words are at the centre of a growing row between savings institutions. After an Advertising Standards Authority ruling this week, banks and building societies are arguing over exact meaning of the term "instant access", now used almost indiscriminately to describe types of savings account, where withdrawals may, in reality, take several days.

As a result of the ASA decision, many institutions could be forced to drop the term from their advertising. The Building Societies Association and the British Bankers Association are now in discussions with the ASA to determine to which type of account "instant access", a powerful marketing draw, can be correctly applied. A revised code should be published in around two months.

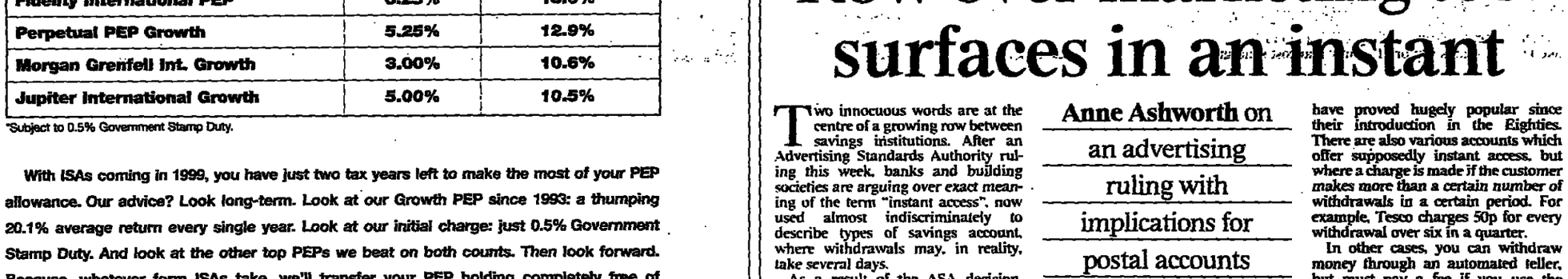
Meanwhile, the ASA has told Direct Line that it can no longer call its account instant access, as savers must have their money transferred to another bank or building society before they can withdraw it. The process can take as long as three working days. The Portman Building Society praised the ASA's move, seeing it as a defence of the traditional instant access account, where the customer's waiting time is determined only by the length of the queue in the branch. The Portman offers an instant access account with a minimum deposit of just £100 paying 5.50 per cent. However, the society concedes that those customers who do not live within reach of its 115 mostly southern-based branches must use the postal deposit and withdrawal service.

The ASA clampdown on Direct Line has implications for dozens of postal accounts where access is not, strictly speaking, instant, as savers must request a withdrawal by post and wait until the cheque arrives. This generally means a delay of two or three working days.

However, millions of customers appear to be sanguine about this period of waiting, as postal accounts with their higher-than-average rates have proved hugely popular since their introduction in the Eighties. There are also various accounts which offer supposedly instant access, but where a charge is made if the customer makes more than a certain number of withdrawals in a certain period. For example, Tesco charges 50p for every withdrawal over six in a quarter.

In other cases, you can withdraw money through an automated teller, but must pay a fee if you use the branch. In theory, instant access accounts operated through the branches of a bank or building society offer genuine cash on demand. But most institutions impose a limit on the amount of money that can be withdrawn in cash over the counter, which means that customers wanting a four or five-figure sum in notes and coin could argue that the description "instant access" was inaccurate.

Safeway, which launched its account last month, chose to avoid the "instant access" description, as customers do not get their cash straightaway. You can request a withdrawal over the telephone and get your money within 24 hours if the cash is transferred into an Abbey National or Safeway ABC Bonus Account. If the money goes into any other account, its journey could take four working days.



hop to it

The Martin Currie range of unit trusts gives you access to investment opportunities round the clock, round the world. Our **International Growth Fund**, for example, has given investors an average annual return of **16.4%** since 1980.* To find out why more and more people are hopping to it, clip the coupon or call **0500 61 62 65** QUOTING REF: TT 14/2

For more details about Martin Currie's range of unit trusts, send the coupon to Martin Currie, FREEPOST 960, Edinburgh EH1 2ZX.

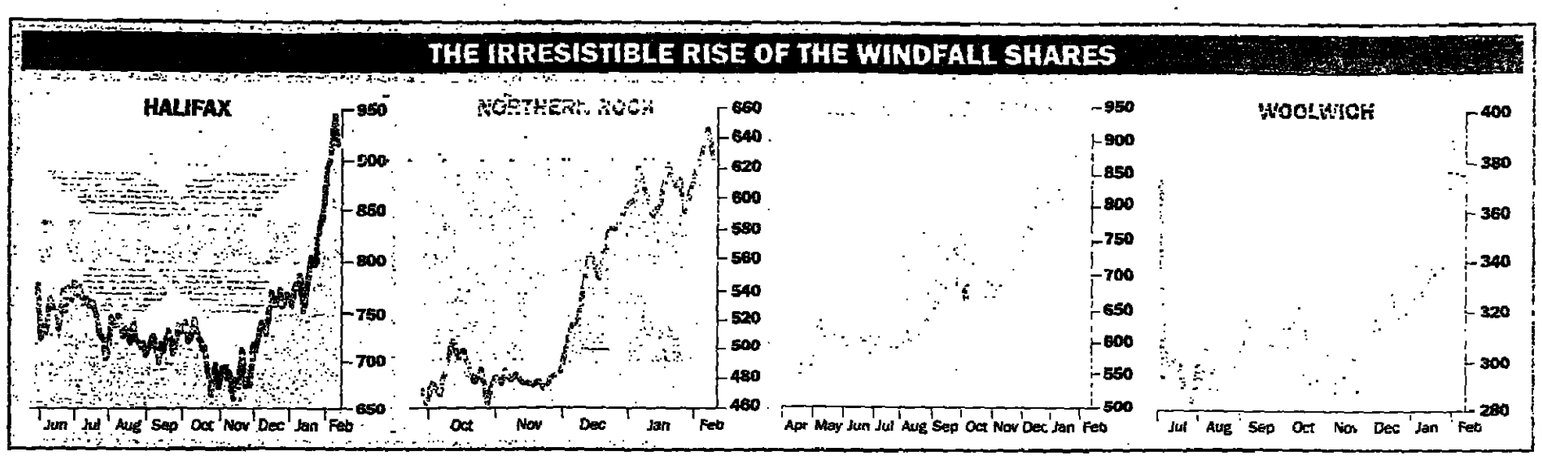
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____ TT 14/2

WARNING: Please remember that past performance is no guide to the future. Market and currency movements may cause the value of units, and the income from them, to fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested when you decide to sell your investment. * Source: Micropal. Buy to sell basis with net income reinvested from 1 January 1980 to 1 January 1998 (J). The equivalent five year figure is 11.1% per annum. Martin Currie Unit Trusts Limited, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF.

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS

MARTIN · CURRIE

Growing investments since 1881



Market edgy over the new banks

Patrick Collinson finds out what worries analysts about soaring shares of former building societies

The five million-plus people who chose to hold on to their building society windfall shares should be toasting their good fortune. In the first six weeks of 1998 prices have rocketed, with the total stock market value of the converted societies jumping by £6 billion to £38 billion.

Halifax has soared 26 per cent this year to a high of 957½p, and is up 44 per cent since its November 1997 low of 663p. Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock have all joined the party. Woolwich has jumped 23 per cent this year, A&L is up 12 per cent and Northern Rock is ahead 8 per cent.

A holding of £1,000 of Halifax windfall shares at their market debut on June 2 is now worth £1,307. More people — about 40 per cent — sold Northern Rock shares using the auction process than those of any other society. Each received an average of £2,260 on October 1 — yet if they had held on and sold at their recent peak those shares would be worth £3,225.

The staggering bull run in the shares of the mortgage banks is, however, making City analysts distinctly edgy. One analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, says the shares are now "grotesquely overvalued" and in a research note to be issued shortly will recommend that clients cut their exposure to the sector. What has caused the shares to surge from one peak to the next, outpacing almost all other leading shares apart from those of the pharmaceutical companies?

■ Surplus capital. A report from Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank, last week highlighted how the converted building societies are so flush with cash that they could afford to hand back £1.7 billion to their shareholders this year. The research identified a total of £5 billion in excess capital at Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, some of which could be paid back in the form of special dividends or share buybacks if it is not used to finance acquisitions.

■ Institutional purchases. The leading pension funds like to hold "weightings" in their shareholdings that reflect the importance of companies such as Halifax in the marketplace. Yet they are starved of shares in Halifax and the other converters because most are still held by small shareholders. Therefore the pension funds have been constant buyers of shares, giving a firm underpinning to prices. Index funds, which aim to replicate the performance of the FTSE 100, which now includes the Halifax, have been particularly desperate buyers of shares.

■ Europe-wide consolidation. Mega-mergers such as that of SBC and UBS, Switzerland's two largest banks, have fuelled speculation about further takeovers as the European banking sector shapes up for a post-EMU world.

■ Strong domestic earnings. Northern Rock has already reported profits up 18 per cent to £197.7 million, and healthy profits growth is expected from all the societies that converted to banks as they release their figures over the next four weeks. Earnings have been boosted by wide margins — the difference between the rate that is paid to savers and the rate charged on mortgages.

■ Insulation from the Asian crisis. The traditional clearing banks are exposed to debts that may pile up as the Asian financial crisis unfolds. Banks such as Halifax have almost no exposure at all to the crisis.

But leading City analysts are saying that the good news is drying up and that share prices may have been pushed too high already.

Robin Down, banking analyst at ABN Amro, said: "If you look at the numbers, nobody's going to make an acquisition at these prices. They are trading at about 50 per cent above the price level at which an acquisition could realistically take place. It doesn't stack up." Halifax alone would now cost more than £24 billion to buy, taking it firmly out of most buyers' orbit.

ABN Amro is now planning a series of presentations to City investors over the next few weeks to put across its message that the sector is overvalued.

Even before the surge of the past month, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson was warning investors that share valuations were looking stretched and that profit margins were likely to come under pressure. During 1997 a quarter of all UK savings were in societies planning to convert and savings rates stayed low in the knowledge that depositors were highly unlikely to move their cash and lose their windfall shares. But now that the conversion process is over cash is already seeping out to more generous banks, such as Sainsbury's.

In a report issued in January, Dresdner said: "The banking sector is very prone to shocks such as a general earnings slowdown, margin pressure, cost inflation or bad debts. The most overvalued sector is the retail banks."

However, small shareholders should bear in mind that City analysts are dealing with market professionals whose investment perspective may be different to that of private investors. The lesson from Abbey National's demutualisation is that time has rewarded those who have held on to their shares through every stock market rise and fall. Abbey shares started trading on July 12, 1989, at £1.30 and by last week had risen to more than £12.30, turning a £1,000 investment in 1989 to about £9,500 today.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS RECOMMEND?

Halifax

James Hamilton, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, is alarmed at the price of Halifax shares: "These prices are almost akin to the South Sea Bubble. I would say the fair value of Halifax is £5.50 [compared with £9.50 last week] — it's that order of magnitude."

Even stripping out the surplus capital, Halifax is trading on a book value of six times or 50 per cent more than any other big bank has changed hands for.

Mr Hamilton added that market momentum could still take Halifax shares 50p or £1 higher, but at these levels they were definitely a "sell".

Robin Down, banking analyst at ABN Amro, said: "I would say that Halifax and Woolwich look the most overvalued of the converted building societies." He advises clients to reduce their holdings.

Salomon Smith Barney's report, *UK Personal Finance Banks*, said last week: "We still consider Halifax one of the more expensive UK bank shares." But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's *Bank Sector Preview* rates Halifax a "hold". It said: "Although valuations remain relatively high, the stock is supported by the large institutional underweighting and the surplus capital of around £4 billion."

Woolwich

Although it is seen as a prime takeover target, Mr Down said: "Woolwich has a £350 million cost base. If an acquirer could make a one-third saving, that would be worth around £120 million. Compare that with the cost of buying Woolwich, which could be up to £8 billion. The only real cost synergies in an acquisition would be between two clearing banks, both with high cost bases."

Salomon is more optimistic. It said: "At about £3.80 the shares are somewhat expensive but, combining the likelihood of some return of capital to shareholders and a sizeable eventual consolidation potential, we are comfortable with the valuation."

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's recommendation on Woolwich is "reduce". It said: "Woolwich's market share has been depressed in the second half and the overall growth outlook is fairly poor."

A & L

This was the heftiest gainer in the first few months after it came to market as it was widely regarded as undervalued compared with the other banks. But both Salomon and ABN Amro now describe it as only 5-10 per cent below the valuation of the other banks. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson rates it a "hold", describing the medium-term outlook for the bank as modest.

Northern Rock

Regarded as the top takeover prospect. Its profit figures matched City expectations and it is seen as one of the most successful banks in keeping costs down. Salomon believes that it is likely to outperform other banking stocks, but Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has downgraded its recommendation. It said: "Industry conditions are expected to slow in 1998 and the bank will find it hard to maintain this momentum."

INVESTORLINK. FAST TRACK SHARE DEALING FROM JUST £5.

Call Investorlink and you get straight through to any one of our more than helpful staff who will confirm and action your instructions smoothly and efficiently. No electronic queuing system. No operator.

Investorlink was the first ever low cost share dealing service. Here's how it works. For deals up to £500, £15 on your first instruction, £10 on the second and a mere £5 thereafter. Maximum discount limited to eight orders in one day. A similar formula applies from £501 to £1,700, reducing to £7. From £1,701 to £5,000 the rate is 1%. With a maximum £50 for deals up to £20,000. Higher amounts by negotiation. Also available. family deals for selling.

Investorlink is a division of Walker Crips Weddle Beck Plc, which was established in 1914 and is fully listed on The London Stock Exchange. For more information call us. Or return the coupon (no stamp required).

FREEPHONE 0800 289 600

Walker Crips Weddle Beck Plc is regulated by The Securities & Futures Authority Limited and is a Member of The London Stock Exchange Limited. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE

INVESTOR LINK

Walker Crips Weddle Beck Plc, FREEPOST Sophia House, 76/80 City Road, London EC1B 1NE

To Walker Crips Weddle Beck Plc. I am interested in the Investorlink low cost share dealing service. Please send me further information.

Name

Address

Postcode TS 14/2/98

HENDERSON INVESTORS INVESTMENT TRUST SHARE PLAN

Awards

Why you can't ignore the big player in investment trusts.

Henderson Investors has won the Micropal 'Best Investment Trust Manager' award for consistent investment performance for each of the last three years. We have also just been voted 'Investment Trust Group of the Year' 1997 by Investment Week magazine (in association with Bloomberg and the Express newspaper).

Free Share Dealing Offer

And if you invest a lump sum before 28 February 1998, you can take advantage of our free share dealing offer. This means you can invest a lump sum in our Investment Trust Share Plan without paying our standard 1% dealing charge.

So now you'll be able to benefit from our award winning performance even more cost effectively.

For a free brochure on our Share Plan scheme, cut out the coupon, or call (at local rate).

Then you'll see why the big player is also a big winner.

0345 88 11 44

Quoting ref: Share Plan 3241. Lines open 8.30am - 6.30pm Mon-Fri. Answerphone service operates outside these hours.

Free share dealing until 28 February 1998

To Investor Services, Henderson Investors, FREEPOST, Newbury RG14 2ZZ. Please send me further details on Henderson Investors Investment Trust Share Plan. Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive information about other Henderson investors products and services.

Title Initial(s) Surname

Address

Postcode

Henderson Investors

The Income PEP with massive growth

152% Income Growth*

392% Capital Growth*

THE MERCURY INCOME PEP

1997 Fund Management Group of the year

Imagine you had been able to invest in the Mercury Income PEP at the Fund's launch in 1984. The gross income paid to you in 1997 would have been over 150% more than the income you received in the Fund's first year. Look beneath the surface and your capital would also have grown by a massive 392%*.

Fully ISAportable

We are committed to offering a free switch from all Mercury PEPs into a Mercury ISA in April 1999.

2% PEP DISCOUNT

Save up to £120

For more information and a special 2% PEP discount worth up to £120, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

CALL NOW 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Investment Services Ltd, FREEPOST KE4930, London EC4B 4DQ. Please send me details of the Mercury Income Fund. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING USING BLOCK CAPITALS.

Title Surname

Forenames in full

Address

Postcode

Ref: TM1D07/98

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

*Source: Mercury Asset Management. Based on buying to selling Distribution prices (16.9.84-1.2.98) (illustrative only as PEPs were not introduced until 1987). 5-year equivalent: 25.3% Income Growth; 74.5% Capital Growth. ■ The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ Some or all of the annual charge is deducted from capital rather than income. Whilst this has the effect of increasing the yield it may reduce the potential for capital growth. ■ 2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum investments of £1,000 or more in the Mercury 1997/8 PEP. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs will be changed in April 1998. ■ The Mercury Income Fund is managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management plc. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by IMRO). ■ Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS (http://www.mam.com) which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

هكذا من الاصل

Charities seek cover for clients

Marianne Curphey on ways to help disabled people get insured



Trevor Gross's firm finds insurance for other disabled people

Charities for people with disabilities are tired of the discrimination that their members suffer when seeking household and life insurance and are negotiating tailor-made contracts.

Scope, the charity for people with cerebral palsy, has put together a household insurance package catering directly for the needs of people who have carers or who live in specially adapted accommodation.

The Muscular Dystrophy Society is considering a scheme for its members and their carers, and the Royal British Legion hopes to create an insurance package that will cover elderly ex-servicemen and people who suffer from Gulf War syndrome, both categories who find it hard to obtain cover.

Traditionally, insurers have preferred not to offer cover to people with disabilities, arguing that they are more likely to have a car crash and would be more costly to rehouse if their home is destroyed by flood or fire. They also claim that their life expectancy is also shorter than average.

In addition, disabled people buying in care services need employer's liability insurance to cover carers. Standard household insurance tends to cover cleaners, but not carers.

Scope has negotiated a household insurance policy with special features including cover for carers and their belongings and cover for theft of, or damage to, wheelchairs. Even though renting or rebuilding a specially adapted home is more expensive, the policy will also cover this aspect of insurance.

Scope is now looking at introducing pet insurance, travel insurance, and insurance for small businesses.

Robert Mclean, of Scope, said: "According to our experience, people with disabilities are no more likely to make a motor or household claim than average, but insurance companies still put the premiums up."

Research by Disabled Person Insurance Services found that 60 per cent of respondents had difficulty finding health insurance, 45 per cent in finding car insurance, 58 per cent in finding life assurance and 78 per cent in finding insurance for carers.

Most insurers are inflexible on life cover. Scope has decided not to offer life cover in the short term, because of concern about regulatory rules. However, Simon Johnson, whose broking company, Pulse, has just begun offering life policies for seriously ill people, will arrange term insurance for those with disabilities. Pulse is talking to the British Legion, the Muscular Dystrophy Society, the British Heart Foundation and the Diabetic Association about services which Pulse can offer.

Mr Johnson is putting together life insurance to pay out on death or temporary total disability unless it is a direct result of the original disability. Pre-existing medical conditions, such as Gulf War syndrome, are excluded, but being able to arrange cover will help people to buy a house or cover a potential inheritance tax bill.

Mr Johnson said: "People who have previously been ill or who have disabilities have long been treated as second-class citizens by insurance companies. Our insurance is not cheap, but we are offering a service which they would struggle to find elsewhere."

He is also working with the Muscular Dystrophy Society to provide £10,000 of life cover to all members who would like it for about £300 a year. A medical examination would be required at the outset, and the policy must be renewed each year. The society says that the plan is "under consideration".

Mencap City Insurance Services, a broker set up by Mencap, organises general insurance for people with disabilities. Roger Smythe, its managing director, said: "We are finding that insurers' attitudes are changing."

Disabled saviour for the handicap motorist

Trevor Gross was just 18 when the car he was driving in a storm was hit by a falling tree. He lost the use of both his legs and has limited movement in his fingers and spent nine months in hospital.

Yet despite this tragedy, he managed to set up an insurance business in 1982 with his two brothers.

The business, called En Route, specialises in finding cover for people with disabilities.

The company is based in Threpston, near Kettering, (01832 732225) and provides general household insurance, travel insurance and motor insurance.

The latter, which helps people whose cars are specially adapted for use by people with disabilities, has its policies underwritten by Highway Motor Policies, the largest Lloyd's motor insurance syndicate.

There are 1.5 million disabled motorists in Britain, yet most insurers are reluctant to give them cover. Mr Gross said that travelling abroad was also a significant problem, because "many companies turn you down the minute they hear you are in a wheelchair".

Under the En Route household policy, wheelchairs are covered free of charge. Two companies which specialise in adapting vehicles, Steering Developments (01442 212918) and KC Mobility Services (01924 442386), are able to give advice.

Mr Gross said: "We decided to concentrate on the niche market of people with disabilities because they were so often ignored by insurers.

"It is always tough when you are starting a business and I had to be particularly well organised because it takes me longer to get up and out of the house in the morning.

"When I was 18 I just had to accept the accident had happened and get on with life."

Mr Gross now has a wife and two children, and the three brothers are successfully running the firm together.

Task force passes over insurance inquiry

A task force investigating discrimination is unlikely this year to get around to looking at the way disabled people are treated by the insurance industry.

Robert Maclean of Scope said: "Life insurance is an inherently discriminatory product. Not just disabled people but also smokers and people who indulge in dangerous sports are likely to pay more. The real difficulty is getting insurance companies to ask pertinent questions rather than discriminatory ones as the cost and quality of life cover available can be severely limited."

FLIGHT

BUSINESS

GUIDE

BOND FUNDS

2% Discount until 30 June '98

Bonds. Here's the long and short of it.

Why bonds? Why now?

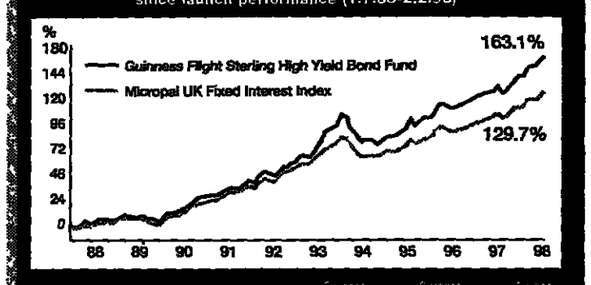
In our view the current economic environment is supportive of investment in bonds. This view is based on our belief that:

- Inflation is going to be lower in 1998/99 than earlier consensus forecasts. Lower inflation usually leads to lower bond yields and consequently higher bond prices.
- Government borrowing is still declining. Less supply will help to support higher bond prices.
- Demand for high grade bonds is on the increase from equity investors looking to diversify their holdings and Asian investors seeking a safe haven in the main bond markets.
- G7 Central Bankers will be more likely to cut rates in 1998 than raise them, in order to maintain growth. If growth in the West were to slip, then the Asian crisis could turn into a global depression. The onus is on them to maintain world growth.

Which markets do we prefer?

Markets such as the US and UK, where economic growth has been strong and short term interest rates relatively high, now offer the best value, in our view. For this reason we would highlight the Sterling High Yield Bond Fund and the US Dollar Bond Fund. Both have an excellent and consistent long term track record.

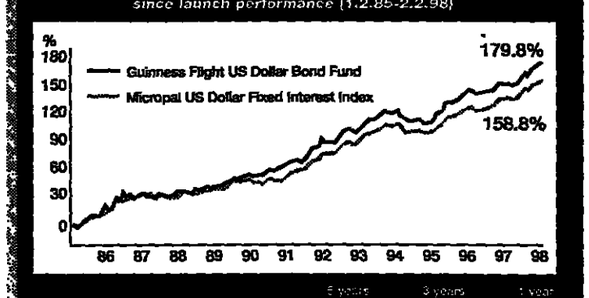
Guinness Flight Sterling High Yield Bond Fund
since launch performance (1.7.88-2.2.98)



	5 years	3 years	1 year
Sterling High Yield Bond Fund	62.7	33.6	14.4
Micropal UK Fixed Interest Index	45.7	22.3	11.6

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Offer to offer, gross income reinvested, in Sterling to 2.2.98

Guinness Flight US Dollar Bond Fund
since launch performance (1.2.85-2.2.98)



	5 years	3 years	1 year
US Dollar Bond Fund	34.8	29.3	10.4
Micropal US Dollar Fixed Interest Index	33.6	27.6	8.8

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Offer to offer, gross income reinvested, in US Dollars to 2.2.98

Our bond expertise.

Guinness Flight's expertise in the field of international bond fund management is long established and well recognised. Managing and advising on over £4 billion/US$7 billion of cash, currency and fixed interest investments, we offer one of the widest ranges of currency and bond funds available.

The Range

Global Strategy Fund
A Guernsey-based distributing umbrella fund
Managed Currency Fund
EMMA Sterling Managed Fund
EMMA US Dollar Managed Fund
Asian Pacific Currency and Bond Fund
Emerging Currency Fund
Global Bond Fund
Global High Income Bond Fund
European Bond Fund
European High Income Bond Fund
US Dollar Bond Fund
Gilt and Sterling Bond Fund
Yen Bond Fund

International Accumulation Fund
A Guernsey-based "roll-up" umbrella fund
Managed Currency Fund
International Prime Bond Fund
International High Yield Bond Fund
European High Yield Bond Fund
US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund
Sterling High Yield Bond Fund

To find out more about our full range of bond and currency funds and why we believe the time is right to invest in bonds, call now or complete and return the coupon below.

GUINNESS FLIGHT
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

Call 0345 564 564 quoting ref 3684
Lines open 24 hours

Guinness Flight Fund Managers (Guernsey) Limited, Guinness Flight House, PO Box 250, Guernsey GY1 3QH, Channel Islands. Tel: +44 (0) 1481 712176. Fax +44 (0) 1481 712065.
Internet: www.guinness-flight.com

FREE

Please send me more details on Guinness Flight's Bond Funds.

Title Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

These Funds are Guernsey-based and FSA recognised. Minimum investment US$3,000/£2,000. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Fluctuations in the value of the underlying securities and the income from them and changes in interest and exchange rates mean that the value of these investments and the income arising from them may fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. The Global, US Dollar, Yen, European, Gilt and Sterling, International Prime and Sterling High Yield Bond Funds may hold more than 35% of their property in Government securities and other public securities issued by the same issuer, details of which may be found in the Funds' scheme particulars. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. 3684/98

ENDOWMENT POLICIES WANTED
We Deliver Competitive Prices, Quick Results, and Quality Service
THE INSURANCE POLICY TRADING COMPANY LTD
22 CHURCH STREET : GODALMING : GU7 1EW
☎ 01483 427575 : Fax 01483 418866
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Cashing in your Endowment Policy?
More than money.
Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.
London/South: 01621 853133 Midlands: 0121 709 2500
South West: 0117 930 3827 North: 0113 239 1941 Scotland: 0141 353 0311
Call today, lines always open. Please quote TTIMES
Beale Doble & Company Limited, Kyllachie Mill, Maldon, Essex CM9 5PH
AP MM Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
Beale Doble

PEP DISCOUNTS
FOR THE BEST DEALS YET
SAVINGS UP TO 5%
UP TO 100% INITIAL COMMISSION DISCOUNT & NO HANDLING FEES
Financial Discounts Direct
FREEPOST · ALTON · HANTS · GU34 1BR
FREEPHONE: 0500 498 477
e.mail: fdd@dial.pipex.com web: http://www.financial-discounts.co.uk
Financial Discounts Direct is a division of Alton Financial Services which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
A PEP should be considered as a long-term investment and only can be suitable for many investors. If you have any doubts, consult your solicitor, accountant, bank manager, stockbroker or financial adviser. The value of investments may go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount of your investment.
It has been announced that the tax treatment of PEPs will change from 6th April 1999

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT ?
IT'S EASY TO GET MORE
We regularly pay up to 30% MORE* than the surrender value for with profits endowment and whole life policies.
Life Company Offered £16,311
Policy Portfolio Price £21,100
*For policies which are at least 6 years old and have a surrender value greater than £2,000.
Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Plc today.
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
POLICY PORTFOLIO T 1425
TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a week
Gade House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU

Gartmore
Not different, exceptional.



"Feel the freedom performance gives."

A classic around the world, the Gartmore Global PEP.

Our choice of top quartile funds includes*:

American Emerging Growth Fund	1st
European Selected Opportunities Fund	1st
International Growth Fund	1st
UK Capital Growth Fund	1st
UK Smaller Companies Fund	1st

Choice and flexibility at low cost from the UK's fifth largest unit trust company.

The Gartmore Global PEP.

For a Gartmore Global PEP brochure, return to: Investor Services, Gartmore Investment Limited, Gartmore House, PO Box 65, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8QQ.
NAME
ADDRESS
COUNTY POSTCODE
T 14.2.98

Call for a brochure 0800 731 3513
E-mail: helpline@gartmore.com web: www.iii.co.uk/gartmore

Source for performance figures: Micropal offer to offer, net income reinvested to 1st January 1998. *1st denotes top quartile performance over five years in the Individual Micropal sector in the case of UK Capital Growth and International Growth since launch on 1 July in the July 1997 Budget it was announced that tax credits will no longer be reclaimable in a PEP from 6th April 1999 (after tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Gartmore will allow free conversion of Gartmore PEPs into Gartmore ISAs. If you have any doubt whether this product is suitable for you and you wish to obtain personal advice, please contact an independent financial adviser. You must read the Terms and Conditions before investing. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Emerging markets are volatile and can suffer from liquidity problems. Changes in rates of exchange between currencies may also cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued and Approved by Gartmore Investment Limited. Gartmore's authorised unit trusts are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. Both companies are regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the NatWest and Gartmore Marketing Group. Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ.

هكذا من الاصل



Real drive: Francesca Woodhouse who is looking to set up a chauffeuring business

Business finance

Beg or borrow

John Givens looks at a range of options open to those starting up in business

For most people, getting started in business will mean having to borrow money to finance all or part of the set-up costs. However, banks work to strict lending criteria. If you do not match up to their requirements, you may find your request for finance will be refused. Those who are turned down need to start exploring other avenues for funding, such as those below.

Venture capital

This is an option for businesses that are unable to secure the funds they need through loans or overdrafts or for enterprises that are unwilling to increase their level of borrowing and cannot provide extra capital through their own cash reserves.

Most venture capital firms give unsecured financing in return for a stake in the business in which they are investing. As they take a higher risk than the banks they will expect to get a bigger share of the profits than you might normally want to give to a business partner.

The majority of firms offering this kind of financial assistance would only consider requests from enterprises looking for a minimum investment of about £100,000.

They will also expect to make a sizeable return on the money they have pumped into your business — perhaps in the region of 25 per cent a year — and will also look at other key areas, like the strength of the management team and your business's track record before deciding whether the risk is worth taking.

Even if you could persuade a company to back your idea you might find that the interference from your venture capital partner becomes annoying, leaving you feeling that you have no control over your company.

In fact, many venture capitalists will insist on having one of its representatives sit on your board of directors and many of the day-to-day business decisions may be made or strongly influenced by that person.

Private investors

Getting funding for a small business through a private investor is becoming increasingly popular.

They are commonly referred to as business angels and are similar to venture capitalists, although they often take a less active role in your company.

Many business angels agree to help to fund small businesses because they have a chance of getting a better return on their cash than they would through other investment options, while others do so because it brings them extra tax benefits.

Your local chamber of commerce may be able to help to put you in touch with business angels willing to consider investing in the type of enterprise that you are setting up.

Grants

It is sometimes possible to get grants from various sources to help to set up your business, although again, this is not particularly easy.

The Prince's Youth Business Trust, for example, will consider offering funding — typically in the region of £2,500 — to young people aged between 18 and 29 who are trying to start a new business, as long as it is convinced that the idea is a good one and that you can present a strong business plan in support of your case.

Grant assistance varies depending on where in Britain you are setting up your enterprise, and your local Business Link should have details.

Family and friends

If you are drawing a blank in your attempts to raise the money to allow you to go it alone, borrowing from family and friends is another option, albeit one that you should approach with caution.

On the face of it getting funding this way is a quick, easy and probably cheap way of solving a financing problem.

However, before going down this route you should think carefully about what may happen if things start to go wrong with your business and you cannot afford to repay your backer, or lose their money altogether.

It may be wise to draw up a legal contract so both of you know exactly what you are getting involved in and what is expected.

Don't be shy of retiring. Boost your company pension now.

No matter when you plan to retire you will want to be able to enjoy life. But will your company pension allow you to do all that you would like?

To receive the maximum pension available you would typically have to be part of the same company pension scheme for 40 years. Moreover, if you have changed your job, even once, it could dramatically reduce your pension.

Topping up your company pension with an Equitable Free-Standing Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme can help make up the difference so that you can afford to enjoy life when you have more time to do so.

You are eligible for tax relief at the highest rate you pay.

Remember that the value of tax relief available will depend on individual circumstances and current legislation can change in the future.

What's more, we don't believe in paying commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, so please contact us direct.

If you would like more information by post and by telephone call us on (0990) 38 48 58, or return the coupon below.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on The Equitable's Free-Standing AVC plans ☐
TMVF8A

NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
_____
Tel: (Office) _____ Postcode _____
Tel: (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____
Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Unemployed find little benefit in a good idea

GO IT ALONE

Francesca Woodhouse is caught up in a *Catch-22* situation experienced by many people who want to set up in business but cannot get the funding.

Ms Woodhouse, of Spennymoor, Co Durham, has been unable to work since 1989 after she suffered serious injuries when she was hit by a drunken driver.

She has been forced to live on a modest out-of-court settlement from the driver's insurers and state benefits for the past nine years but has now recovered sufficiently to allow her to consider returning to work.

So when Ms Woodhouse came up with the idea of buying a vintage Rolls-Royce and chauffeuring wealthy overseas tourists around specially designed UK tours, she thought she had found the answer to her problems.

NatWest, Barclays and Lloyds TSB have each offered her a loan of £12,500 — half the cost of the vehicle — but they say that she must find the other half herself before they will release the funds.

Ms Woodhouse said: "The problem is I cannot save the rest of the money needed because living on benefits of around £200 a week makes it almost impossible and, in any case, once you accumulate more than £3,000 in savings the state stops your benefits.

"It really is a *Catch-22* situation and it's very frustrating because I believe the business would be a great success and allow me to stop relying on benefits."

Ms Woodhouse has put together an in-depth business plan after lengthy market research.

She now plans to advertise her £4,000 per couple tours in leading American newspapers although she fears that unless she can find the funding soon she will miss out on the rare Rolls-Royce.

"I'm disappointed that people in my position cannot get more help from the Government and if they really want to get people off benefits and back to work they should do more to help."



WE'RE STACKING SAVINGS HIGH AND SELLING 'EM CHEAP

When it comes to tax efficient savings, this is the place to shop. Our policy is discounts, discounts, discounts! Whatever scheme you opt for. We pioneered discount saving. And whilst we have our imitators, nobody beats us for value or efficiency.

We handle all the top brands. So which do you choose? Much of course, depends on your circumstances. To help you, we've produced a series of easy-to-follow fact sheets.

The Savings Superstore is a no-frills, execution only service for the cost conscious investor and is a division of Chelsea Financial. For more information call The Savings Superstore, or return the coupon (no stamp required).

The Savings Superstore, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0YZ Tel: 0171 351 6022

REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PIA). THE PIA DOES NOT REGULATE TESSAS. IF IN DOUBT ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT NEEDS YOU SHOULD OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE.

THE SAVINGS SUPERSTORE
THE ONE STOP INVESTMENT SHOP
A Division of Chelsea Financial Services Plc

To The Savings Superstore, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0YZ.
Please send me your Discount Saving Fact Pack.
Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____
_____ Postcode _____
TS 14/2/98

A new unit trust from Jupiter that offers you the world

Jupiter's new Global Opportunities Fund

Investment opportunities know no boundaries. So Jupiter have launched a new, fully PEPable fund which will seek long-term growth wherever it can be found throughout the world.

Jupiter's Global Opportunities fund will focus on high-quality medium and small companies principally in the UK, Europe and the USA.

There will be some exposure to Far Eastern and emerging markets. As solutions emerge to problems in the Far East, we see the region having potential for a strong recovery and will look to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

The Fund will benefit from a team of experienced managers following the active management principles which have led to Jupiter becoming one of the strongest performing unit trust groups and PEP providers.

Join Jupiter's investment world. Talk to your financial advisor, call free on the number below or return the coupon.

JUPITER
leaders in investment performance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500 98

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd., Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB

Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Global Opportunities Fund ☐ The Jupiter PEP ☐

Print Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ Address _____
_____ Post Code _____ TI14.02

Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF. A subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, one of Germany's leading banks. The value of an investment in a unit trust and the income from it can go down as well as up. It may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. It was announced in the July 1997 Budget that tax credit will not be reclaimable in a PEP from 5 April 1999. Other tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new Individual Savings Account. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Growth & Income Fund, Income Trust and High Income Fund: This may accordingly restrict capital growth. For your security we may record or randomly monitor all telephone calls. If you are unsure of the suitability of this investment please contact your financial adviser. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Scheme particulars and key features documents may also be obtained from that address.

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Free trust guide details discounts

Stockbrokers and financial advisers may give warnings about Investment Trust discounts, but how do they affect the value of an investment and why does the discount exist? A free guide produced by the Association of Investment Trust Companies takes a look at the history of investment trusts and assesses whether a discount is beneficial for buyers and shareholders. Call AITC on 0171 431 5222 for a copy.

☐ *With-profit bonds*, an investment provided by insurance companies, offers benefits to investors, including guarantees on death, regular 'income' withdrawals and a smoothing of investment peaks and troughs to give a steady rate of return. Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, has produced an update for its *With-Profit Bond Survey* following the latest annual and terminal bonus declarations, including special first year bonuses of up to 10 per cent. The full survey is a useful source of information for anyone thinking of taking the with-profits route to bond investment. A free copy of the survey and update can be obtained either by writing to Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 3PB, or by calling 0345 868244.

☐ There are 50,000 thatched homes in the Cotswolds, East Anglia, the West Country and southern counties, but many insurance companies are unwilling to cover them. Those that agree often charge premiums 40 per cent above average. Thatch roofs do pose problems in that it represents a risk for underwriters as a roof costs around £20,000 to replace and repairs tend to be even more expensive for listed houses. AA Insurance, which already offers household insurance, has sought to fill a gap in the market and will cover thatched cottages offering either a standalone buildings or combined buildings and contents policy. For a quotation, call 01708 442426.

☐ A short guide for employees about the tax treatment of their travel expenses from April 6, 1998, has been produced by the Inland Revenue. It includes mileage payments under a Fixed Profit Car Scheme, and tax relief for the costs of business travel. Available from local tax offices.

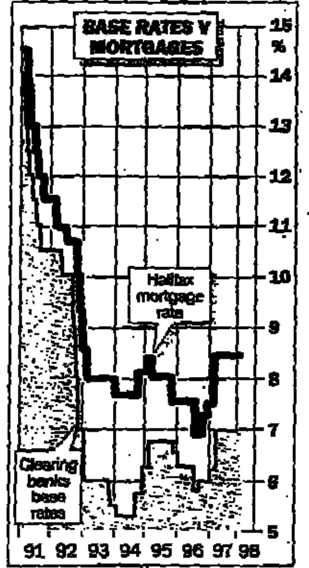
LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£1	6.80	Yly
Scottish Widows Bnk 0845 8450829	Instant Access	InstantB	£100	6.90	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
Alliance & Leic 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 3	60 day p	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Birmingham Midshrs BS 0645 720721	First Class 120	120 day p	£10,000	7.95	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Melton Mowray BS 0800 731 7385		5 year	£1,000	7.90	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£2,000	7.90	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200		5 year	£3,000	7.90	Yly
Skipton BS 0345 171777		5 year	£3,000	7.90	Yly



CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

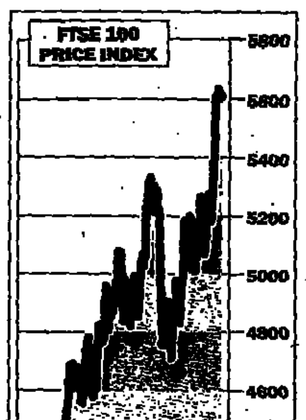
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
RBS Direct 0800 121125	12.80%	£188.15	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
						0645 64500
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**	1mth	0645 64500
Investment A/c*₄	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499***	3mth	0645 64500
Income Bond*₄	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**		0645 64500
First Opt Bond₄	6.75	5.40	4.05	1,000-20,000**		0645 64500
45th Issue Certf†₃	5.00			100-10,000	8day	0645 64500
Children's Bond†	6.25			25-1,000	1mth	0645 64500
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 64500
Capital Bond₅	6.25	5.00	3.75	100-250,000	8day	0645 64500
12th Ind Linked†₃	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 64500
Pensnrs Bond S4₄	6.50	5.20	3.90	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 64500

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds † Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2 and S3 holdings ⁴ Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,773	£9,859	£11,338
Sun Life ....Level	£8,640	£9,772	£11,298
Legal & General...Level	£8,676	£9,714	£11,022
Equitable Lf........Level	£8,691	£9,707	£11,100
Sun Lf of Can......Level	£8,617	£9,688	£11,142

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,113	£8,945	£10,152
Prudential ....Level	£8,193	£8,911	£10,111
Generali ....Level	£7,870	£8,809	£10,096
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,008	£8,756	£9,932
Equitable Life ......Level	£7,992	£8,730	£9,796

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£7,622	£8,221	£8,985
Equitable Life......Level	£7,620	£8,202	£9,018
Generali ....Level	£7,488	£8,155	£9,064
Norwich Un ....Level	£7,545	£8,103	£8,768
Sun Lf of Can......Level	£7,451	£8,059	£8,910

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at February 12, 1998

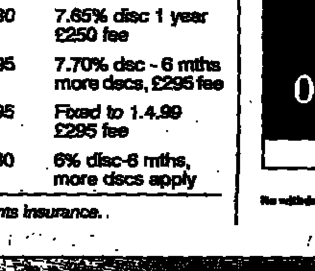
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.80
	5,000	AIG Life	6.13
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.55
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
	15,000	GE Fin Assur	6.15
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.08
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.13
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.50
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.95

Source: Chamberlain de Broé 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	127.25	7.370	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	156.00	7.450	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	174.00	7.470	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	174.75	7.440	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	162.00	7.480	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	159.00	7.390	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	187.00	7.150	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	153.00	7.030	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	177.25	7.120	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	182.50	7.050	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	162.75	7.220	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	118.25	7.400	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	154.75	7.750	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	189.00	7.210	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	179.75	7.440	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	169.75	7.440	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source* NatWest Markets



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more discs, £280 fee
Northern Rock¹ 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.4.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.75	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.3.00 0.5% fee £300 max
Woolwich² 0181 298 5831	4.99	£15-250k	95	Fixed to 1.4.00 £350 fee
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.2.00 £295 fee

NB ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance. ² buildings insurance only.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more discs, £280 fee
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.99	£1-150k	80	7.65% disc 1 year £250 fee
Scarborough¹ 0990 133149	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.70% dsc - 6 mths more discs, £295 fee
Leeds & Holbeck¹ 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	Fixed to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.50	£25-175k	80	6% disc-6 mths, more discs apply

NB. ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% disc-12 mnths
Wesleyan 0121 200 3003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% disc for 12 mnths
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	5.69	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.3.00, £150 fee

NB ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

7.60% gross p.a.
The bond that hits you for six.
CALL FREE 24 HRS
0800 20 21 21
BRISTOL & WEST
BRISTOL & WEST PLC
Rate refers to Fixed for Six Bond (Issue 5). Minimum balance £5,000. No withdrawals permitted. Interest paid on maturity. Bristol & West plc. Registered in England No. 2124201. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	598.00	632.40	+1.00	
UK Equity	846.20	895.50	-1.00	
Property	456.80	483.40	+0.50	
Fixed Interest	377.70	399.70	+2.90	
Money	284.40	301.00	+0.30	
International	479.30	507.20	+5.10	
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	224.30	236.20	-1.20	
Ethical S4	189.90	199.90	-1.60	
International S4	229.10	241.20	-1.40	
Protected Gth S4	132.70	139.70	-0.60	
Asian Pacific	149.50	157.40	-1.10	
European S4	280.40	295.20	-1.40	
Prop Fd Ser 4	457.90	482.10	+0.40	
Equity Ser 4	329.10	346.50	-0.30	
Man Ser 4	892.70	939.70	+2.10	
Conv Ser 4	372.80	392.50	+0.40	
Money Ser 4	372.40	392.10	+0.40	
Fixed Int Ser 4	456.30	480.40	+5.40	
American Ser 4	878.10	924.40	-18.90	
High Inc Ser 4	1030.90	1085.20	+3.80	
Indexed Int Ser 4	261.30	275.10	+2.20	
Japan Ser 4	254.80	268.30	-2.40	
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	861.50	911.70	-3.50	
British Fund	914.60	967.00	+1.10	
International	745.50	786.90	+6.30	
Dollar Fund	717.00	758.80	-22.80	
Capital Fund	709.40	750.70	+1.90	
Income Fund	1133.50	1199.50	+2.00	
Property Series A	584.40	618.50		4.70
Property Units	976.90	1025.80		
Financial Fund	1115.40	1180.40	+3.40	
Managed Ser A	780.20	825.70	+2.60	
Managed Units	1412.50	1496.90	+4.50	
High Yield Fund	1014.40	1073.50	+0.60	
Money Series A	329.60	348.80	+0.31	
Money Units	442.30	465.50	+0.50	
Equity Fund	904.70	957.40	+2.30	
Fixed Interest	487.80	516.20	+5.30	
Indexed Secs	226.70	239.90	+2.30	
European Fund	1146.60	1213.60	-2.10	
Natural Res	255.50	270.40	+1.10	
Far East Fund	467.90	495.20	-2.60	
Smaller Cos	713.00	754.50	-2.90	
Special Sits	784.20	829.90	+2.00	
Man Currency	292.40	310.50	+1.20	
Japanese Tech	239.30	253.30	-2.70	
US Smaller Cos	539.00	570.40	-12.50	
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	281.00	295.80	+0.30	
Financial Ser 1	90.80	95.60	-0.70	
Fixed Interest	411.90	433.60	+4.40	
Gold	67.10	70.70	-0.50	
Managed	856.00	901.10	+2.90	
Mngd Growth	273.90	289.40	+0.70	
Property	398.20	419.20		
Residential Prop	125.70	132.40		
TSB American	410.10	431.70	-11.70	
TSB Brit Gwth	1411.40	1485.70	-2.80	
TSB European	423.30	445.60	-0.10	
TSB Income	657.70	692.40	-0.70	
TSB Gilt	566.20	596.00	+4.50	
TSB Pacific	325.40	343.00	-3.80	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	425.30	447.70	+0.90	
Equity Acc	2044.50	2152.40	+2.50	
Property Acc	756.00	795.80	-0.50	
Far East Acc	258.60	272.30	+4.30	
Managed Capital	704.20	741.30	+1.10	
-do- Acc	1545.70	1627.10	+2.70	
Overseas Acc	1494.80	1573.30	-1.70	
Gilt Edged Acc	640.40	674.20	+6.70	
Amer Equity Acc	1442.10	1518.00	-10.90	
Amer Man Acc	799.10	841.20	+12.40	
Amer Prop Acc	134.70	141.80	+1.20	
Distribution Bonds	29.00	30.60		
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	191.20	201.30	-0.80	
Balanced Ser 6	1014.50	1072.50	+2.40	
Opportunity Ser 6	235.90	248.40	-1.00	
Distribution Ser 6	117.00	123.00	+0.50	6.13
UK Equities Ser 6	1567.30	1670.00	+2.20	
Higher Inc Ser 6	1680.40	1779.40	-1.40	
North Amer Ser 6	726.10	764.40	-16.90	
Far East Ser 6	458.20	482.40	-4.90	
Europe Ser 6	619.60	652.20	+0.80	
Intnl Ser 6	745.10	784.40	+3.20	
Property Ser 6	630.80	664.10	+1.10	
Fixed Int Ser 6	547.00	575.80	+4.00	
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	225.40	237.30	+1.80	
Gtead Dep Ser 6	339.10	357.20	+0.30	
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1366.10	1438.10	-1.70	
-do- Initial	807.50	850.10	-1.00	
Gilt Edged Acc	512.10	539.10	+5.60	
-do- Initial	305.20	321.50	+3.30	
International Acc	493.50	519.50	-2.00	
-do- Initial	292.50	307.90	+1.20	
Managed Acc	747.10	786.50	+1.40	
-do- Initial	444.30	467.70	+0.90	
Money Acc	330.80	348.20	+0.40	
Property Acc	356.90	375.70	-0.20	
-do- Initial	212.60	223.80	-0.20	
American Acc	513.20	540.20	-12.80	
Far East Gwth	169.30	178.30	-1.30	
Financial Acc	630.90	663.70	-1.30	
500 Accum	572.50	602.70	+2.50	
Japan Acc	200.00	210.60	-0.20	
Income Acc	792.80	834.60	-1.80	
Special Sits Acc	424.10	446.50	-0.10	
Unit Tech Acc	210.50	221.60	-0.70	
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1138.11	1138.11	-1.87	
Income Fund	1173.77	1235.55	-3.42	
Extra Income	1054.72	1110.24	-4.20	
Worldwide Gth	647.80	681.92	-4.64	
Balanced Fund	1031.67	1085.97	-5.00	
Smllr Cos Recov	1120.10	1179.06	-4.36	
N Amer & Genrl	604.56	636.38	-16.63	
Pacific Basin	284.53	299.83	+0.47	
German Growth	325.22	342.34	+1.02	
Japan Growth	140.25	147.64	-0.86	
The UK Gth Fd	333.34	350.89	-1.56	
Contl Euro Gth	205.49	216.31	-1.32	
Property Fund	456.41	480.43	+1.69	
Fixed Interest	428.38	450.93	+3.24	
Cash Fund	321.17	338.08	+0.32	
Managed Inv	673.51	708.96	-0.92	
Nth Amer Recov	384.72	404.97	+13.74	
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	237.30	251.10	+1.70	
Performance Plus	267.00	282.50	+2.10	
With Profit Perf	201.60	213.30	-0.20	
UK Opportunity	325.50	344.35	+2.90	
Euro Opportunity	341.60	361.40	+2.70	
North Amer Opp	308.20	326.20	-7.10	
Far East Opp	169.90	179.80	-3.50	
Gwth Prop Ser 1	185.00	194.80	+4.30	
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.40	-0.20	
Fixed Int	264.60	280.00	+2.80	
Cash	179.50	190.10	+0.20	6.49
Overseas	307.70	325.60	+2.40	
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	497.10	523.30	+3.50	
UK Equity	984.50	1036.30	+0.80	
Property	299.20	315.00	-0.20	
Money Market	284.90	299.90	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	384.40	404.70	+3.50	
Japan	267.30	281.40	-0.30	
North America	274.30	288.90	-6.30	
International	475.50	500.60	+3.70	
European	436.90	459.90	+3.50	
Far East	125.90	132.50	-2.60	
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	467.60	498.41	+0.01	
Property	303.90	319.90	-0.20	
Gilt & Fxd Int	305.90	321.60	+2.30	
Equity	592.40	623.60	+2.60	
Cash	243.10	255.90	+0.30	
CLife Euro Mgd	549.40	578.40	-0.70	
CLife Intl Fd	392.10	402.30	+3.80	
Managed Fund	990.50	1042.60	+0.20	
Property Fund	622.10	654.80	+0.60	
Equity Fund	1462.70	1539.60	+6.30	
Gilt Edged Fd	784.10	825.60	+6.01	
Deposit Fund	375.30	395.10	+0.40	
Investment Fd	640.30	680.80	+0.40	
International	604.20	640.20	+5.20	
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2320.10	2442.20	+3.00	
Merc European	609.10	641.10	+0.70	
Merc Fxd Int	641.50	677.30	+6.10	
Gtd Money	378.90	398.80	+0.40	
Mercury Intl Mgd	944.60	889.00	+9.80	
Merc Int Fxd Int	387.10	407.50	+2.60	
Mercury Japan	215.80	227.10	-2.71	
Merc Nth Amer	542.40	570.90	-11.00	
UK Property	521.80	549.20	+0.60	
Merc Multip Inv	1400.40	1474.10	+4.10	
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 01908 606101				
Property Fund	227.10	239.00		
Managed Fund	915.10	963.30	+5.00	
Equity Fund	578.00	608.50	-2.70	
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	403.70	425.00	+1.01	
Ruby	217.20	229.50	+0.10	
Emerald	177.80	187.20	+1.20	
Equity	511.10	538.10	+0.30	
Property	261.90	275.80	+0.02	
Gilt & Fixed Int	269.10	283.40	+5.21	
Indexed Secs	208.10	219.10	+1.90	
Cash	212.00	223.20	+0.20	
Nth American	403.10	425.10	-10.10	
Far East	240.30	253.00	-1.30	
International	300.70	316.60	+1.50	
Special Sits	544.70	573.40	+4.20	
Intl Income	479.50	504.80	+0.40	
European	540.70	569.20	+1.20	
Japanese	98.50	103.70	-1.20	
SE Asia	305.10	321.20	-0.50	
With Profits Res	200.40	211.00	+0.30	
-do- Spec	209.40	211.00	+0.31	
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	485.90	511.40	+1.10	
Equity	667.40	702.60	+1.20	
Property	248.20	261.30	+0.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	353.50	372.80	+5.01	
Index Linked	225.40	237.30	+2.40	
Cash	295.50	311.00	+0.50	
Nth American	506.80	532.60	-15.00	
Far East	244.10	261.21	-1.50	
International Acc	372.60	392.30	+1.30	
Special Sits	625.10	660.50	+3.60	
European Flex	783.40	824.70	+1.70	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY 01634 890000				
(Units) Key	285.16	...	-16.10	
-do- Pacemaker	418.42	...	+25.07	
-do- Cash	227.97	239.97	-0.09	
-do- Equity	915.96	958.91	-7.29	
-do- Fxd Int	459.30	483.47	+1.99	
-do- Managed	570.24	600.25	+5.04	
-do- Property	439.66	462.90	-2.08	
(Pens) Cash Cap	220.54	232.16	+0.11	
-do- Cash Inv	361.09	380.10	+0.49	
-do- Equity Cap	2111.62	2222.77	+2.90	
-do- Equity Inv	3457.25	3639.22	+7.32	
-do- Fixed Cap	496.82	521.93	+4.53	
-do- Fixed Inv	811.79	854.52	+7.48	
-do- Index Cap	235.06	247.44	+1.91	
-do- Index Inv	384.85	405.11	+3.37	
-do- Mngd Cap	824.77	868.19	+2.64	
-do- Mngd Inv	1350.35	1421.43	+5.27	
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	1261.95	...	+9.90	
Var Ann (5)	133.24	...	+0.89	
Prime Managed	568.10	598.10	+0.80	
Prime UK Equity	795.70	837.10	+0.50	
Prime Intl Equity	356.60	375.00	+0.50	
Prime Property	281.50	296.40	+0.70	
Prime Fxd Int	289.40	304.70	+1.30	
Prime Index-Lnk	207.40	218.40	+1.60	
Prime Cash	233.20	245.50	+0.37	
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744640				
Managed Fund	1524.00	1604.20	-47.50	
Equity II	2442.50	2571.00	+103.00	
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
(1) With Pfts (S&ol)	120.30	..	-0.20	
Secure (2)	113.40	..	-0.10	
Managed (3)	136.10	..	+0.50	
Equity Mngd (3)	135.60	..	-0.30	
Adventurous (3)	123.10	..	+1.10	
Bristol & West (2)	115.91	..	+0.10	
Equity Mgd S1	329.00	346.40	+0.01	
Managed S1	327.70	345.00	+1.00	
Adventurous S1	253.50	266.90	-2.20	
Managed (2)	222.60	234.60	+0.70	
Eagle Mid Lfs	436.90	452.40	+1.70	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)	121.10		+0.20	
Secure (2)	114.90		+0.20	
Managed (2)	137.50		+0.50	
Equity Mngd (2)	129.40		+0.50	
Adventurous (2)	123.50		+1.30	
Bristol & West (2)	117.10	..	+0.20	
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	441.60	464.90	+0.40	
UK Equity	641.70	675.50	+0.70	
Stewardship	516.10	543.30	+1.10	
Overseas Equity	393.40	414.20	+0.80	
North American	255.20	268.70	-5.90	
Pacific Basin	122.40	130.20	-2.50	
European	401.60	421.70	-3.20	
Property	211.10	222.30		
Fixed Interest	308.20	324.50	+2.40	
Index Linked	206.10	217.00	+1.60	
Cash	231.50	240.40	+0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	663.00	697.80	+6.70	
Managed	998.70	1051.20	+1.10	
Deposit	391.70	412.30	+0.40	
Property	397.20	418.10	-0.20	
American	720.00	758.20	-16.90	
Australian	665.90	700.90	-0.50	
European	976.80	1028.20	+8.20	
Income Acc	1160.20	1221.80		
-do- Dist	627.70	660.70	+0.30	3.95
International	421.30	443.30	+0.70	
Japan Smaller	279.70	294.40	-1.90	
Singapore & Mal	276.50	291.00	-5.90	
Tokyo Fund	553.70	582.80	-0.10	
UK Equity	944.70	996.00	-0.20	
CCM Varied Mgr	1064.70	1120.00	+0.60	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	239.00	251.60	-3.00	
GT Plan Wrldwde	606.10	638.10	+6.40	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	467.00	491.70	-1.20	
-do- Inv A	866.50	912.00	+1.30	
UK Equity	601.50	633.30	+2.40	
Gilt Plus	239.50	252.60	+2.40	
Managed	396.50	417.50	-0.50	
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	254.50	268.00	+0.57	
Unitised Profit	171.30	180.30	+0.30	
UK Equity	462.10	486.40	+0.10	
Fixed Int	244.20	257.00	+1.70	
Index-Linked	200.00	211.10	+1.50	
Cash Deposit	197.20	207.50	+0.20	
Property	205.30	216.10	+0.10	
International	259.50	273.60	+1.97	
American	201.90	212.50	-7.60	
Japan	182.70	192.30	-1.00	
Japan Smllr Cos	147.20	155.00	-1.80	
European	275.10	290.00	+0.80	
Pacific Fund	190.10	200.10	-3.10	
Conv Life	182.70	192.30	+1.10	
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	671.10	706.50	+1.20	
Managed Initial	409.10	430.60	+0.60	
Equity Ord	1168.70	1230.20	+0.10	
Equity Init	710.40	747.80	+0.30	
I-Linked Gilt Ord	244.60	257.50	+1.90	
I-Linked Gilt Init	155.70	163.90	+1.10	
Overs Equity Ord	361.30	380.60	+2.30	
Overs Equity Init	220.40	232.10	+1.20	
Property Ord	319.20	336.00	+0.40	
Property Init	194.00	204.20	+0.10	
Fixed Int Ord	357.30	376.10	+2.90	
Fixed Int Init	217.20	228.60	+1.50	
Deposit Ord	235.30	247.70	+0.20	
Deposit Initial	143.00	150.50		
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	980.00	1020.90		
Managed Initial	608.80	640.80	+0.80	
-do- Acc	932.80	981.90	+1.60	
Equity Initial	1022.70	1076.50	+1.00	
-do- Acc	1567.00	1649.50	+2.30	
Fixed Int Initial	528.80	556.70	+4.30	
-do- Acc	810.30	852.90	+6.80	
Intl Initial	522.90	550.40	+1.70	
-do- Acc	801.20	843.30	+3.00	
Nth Amer Initial	307.10	323.20	-7.80	
-do- Acc	470.20	495.00	-11.10	
Pacific Initial	155.30	163.70	-3.00	
-do- Acc	238.00	250.60	-4.00	
Property Initial	202.10	212.70		
-do- Acc	309.60	325.60		
Index-Lnkd Initl	184.70	194.40	+1.30	
-do- Acc	257.50	271.10	+2.00	
Deposit Initial	210.40	221.50	+0.10	
-do- Acc	322.40	339.40	+0.40	
Euro Initial	152.20	160.40	-0.70	
-do- Acc	196.30	206.70	-0.80	
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 255, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	36.39	38.31	+0.13	
Balanced	36.24	38.15	+0.03	
Opportunity	36.66	38.59	+0.02	
Deposit	27.14	28.57	+0.20	
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	28.66	30.17	+0.20	
Balanced S2	29.17	30.49	+0.06	
Opportunity S2	28.47	29.97	+0.19	
Deposit S2	25.35	26.68	+0.03	
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR 01772 440000				
Managed	239.50	251.00	+1.00	
-do- Pens	315.00	331.50	+1.00	
UK Equity	274.60	290.00	+1.60	
-do- Pens	344.90	363.00	+2.40	
International	184.00	193.80	+1.80	
-do- Pens	205.90	216.70	+2.40	
Deposit	198.30	208.60	+0.20	
-do- Pens	198.00	209.20	+0.30	
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	813.70	856.50	+8.40	
Global Property	352.10	370.60		
Global Fixed Int	664.10	699.00	+6.30	
Global Equity	893.20	940.20	+10.90	
Global Cash	243.10	255.90	+0.30	
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Int	134.80	141.90		
-do- Acc	203.90	214.70	+0.20	
Brit Opps Intl	210.30	221.40	+0.10	
-do- Acc	287.20	302.40	+0.40	
Cash Initial	173.40	182.60	+0.20	
-do- Acc	275.30	289.80	+0.30	
Equity Initial	992.30	1075.00	+0.40	
-do- Acc	1561.40	1659.40	+0.70	
Fixed Initial	406.20	427.60	+3.70	
-do- Acc	647.80	681.90	+6.90	
Index Lnkd Gilt	193.20	203.30	+1.60	
-do- Acc	247.20	260.40	+2.00	
Intl Initial	355.40	374.40	+0.60	
-do- Acc	567.60	597.30	+0.90	
Managed Initial	615.10	647.50	+1.20	
-do- Acc	1164.60	1225.90	+2.40	
Property Initial	237.50	250.00	+0.30	
-do- Acc	449.70	473.40	+0.60	
LINCOLN The Quadrant, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Unit	1238.54	...	+30.10	
Property Units	379.00	399.00	-1.00	
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9139.30	9589.00	-35.00	
2nd Equity Acc	982.10	1033.00	+2.00	
2nd High Inc Acc	951.60	1001.00	+2.00	
2nd Property Acc	297.40	313.40	+1.00	
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	220.00	231.40	-0.10	
2nd Mngd 1 Acc	631.10	664.50	+2.80	
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	265.80	279.70	+1.00	
2nd Deposit Acc	321.90	338.70	+0.30	
2nd Gilt Acc	383.90	404.00	+2.40	
2nd Amer Acc	1095.00	1152.00	-21.00	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	251.40	264.50	+1.30	
2nd Index Acc	239.90	252.60	+1.60	
2nd Far East Acc	252.70	265.90	-4.60	
2nd Global Acc	192.70	202.80	+1.27	
2nd Euro Acc	241.00	253.60	+1.40	
2nd Japan Acc	120.70	126.90	-0.60	
2nd Intl Bd Acc	179.30	188.70	+1.00	
2nd Cap Gth Acc	180.40	189.90	-0.90	
ex-Lazard Funds				
Property	633.50	666.80	-0.30	
Managed	917.20	947.40	+2.20	
American	651.90	686.00	-14.10	
UK Equity Fd	713.10	750.50	-1.30	
Japan	132.60	139.80	-0.60	
Index-Lkd	227.50	239.20	+1.50	
High Yield	1322.00	1391.00	+1.00	
Money	457.20	481.20	+0.40	
International	433.10	455.70	+2.60	
Personal Active	410.60	432.20	+1.80	
Growth Acc	887.30	933.70	+3.30	
Gilt Edged	543.80	572.30	+3.90	
European	219.90	231.40	+1.40	
Far East	133.70	140.60	-1.90	
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity	1401.20	...	-9.60	
Fixed Interest	566.90	...	+7.00	
Property	511.80	...	-0.40	
Deposit	357.70	...	+0.30	
Mixed	831.60	...	-3.20	
Indexed Stock	276.30	...	+2.90	
International	315.40	...	-1.30	
Equity A	523.60	...	-2.30	
Fixed Int A	290.40	...	+3.10	
Property A	224.00	...	+0.20	
Deposit A	197.60	...	+0.20	
Mixed A	272.10	...	-1.10	
Index Stock A	215.40	...	+1.90	
International A	208.70	...	-0.70	
Equity P	1254.10	...	-10.30	
Fixed Int P	787.20	...	+9.80	
Property P	381.80	...	-10.50	
Deposit P	407.80	...	+0.40	
Mixed P	806.90	...	-3.60	
Index Stock P	318.10	...	+2.40	
International P	409.90	...	-1.70	
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	695.20	...	+4.30	
-do- Acc	1364.80	...	+9.30	
Property Cap	141.40	...	-0.30	
-do- Acc	260.10	...	-0.20	
Fxd Interest Cap	218.70	...	+1.70	
-do- Acc	405.60	...	+3.40	
Equity Cap	441.60	...	-2.20	
-do- Acc	819.30	...	-3.60	
Internatl Cap	255.70	...	+2.40	
-do- Acc	477.60	...	+4.90	
Gtd Deposit Cap	159.20	...	...	
-do- Acc	293.20	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap	426.10	...	...	
-do- Acc	802.20	...	+0.60	
Moneymaker Fd	606.10	...	+1.80	
Capital Growth	2710.00	...	-5.00	
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	692.80	727.60	+7.70	
Amer Rec Bond	822.80	864.10	+29.30	
Am Smlr Cos Bd	342.90	360.20	+4.10	
Australasia Bd	295.50	310.40	+1.80	
Commodity Bond	324.70	341.00	+2.90	
Deposit Bond Acc	410.20	430.80	+0.40	
Equity Bond Acc	2151.10	2258.70	-15.60	
European Bd Acc	620.70	651.90	-0.60	
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1173.50	1272.30	+0.30	
Gilt Bond Acc	570.20	598.80	+2.40	
Gold Bond Acc	118.00	124.00	-0.10	
High Yield Bond	477.90	501.90	+0.10	
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	252.40	265.10	+1.50	
International Bd	931.80	966.90	+3.60	
Japan Bond Acc	166.70	175.10	-2.80	
Japan Sm Cos Ac	174.40	183.20	+2.10	
Managed Bonds	1176.40	1237.40	+2.50	
Prop Bond Acc	596.90	626.90	-0.20	
Rec Bond Acc	1131.90	1188.60	+6.80	
S East Asia Bd Acc	247.20	259.70	-7.20	
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	335.20	352.90	+2.40	
UK Equity Acc	528.70	556.60	+4.10	
Special Sits	141.10	148.60	+0.40	
Special Sits Acc	222.70	234.50	+1.00	
North American	285.00	300.00	-5.20	
N American Acc	449.60	473.30	-8.50	
Pacific Basin	277.50	292.20	-3.00	
Pacific Basin Acc	457.70	480.80	-4.90	
Fixed Interest	328.00	345.30	+2.40	
Fixed Interest Acc	518.00	545.30	+4.20	
Property	200.00	210.60	+0.10	
Property Acc	315.80	332.50	+0.20	
Deposit	156.90	165.20		
Deposit Acc	247.80	260.90	+0.20	
Managed	344.00	362.20	+2.60	
Managed Acc	499.90	526.30	+3.90	
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	483.20	509.60	+0.30	
UK Equity	575.50	605.70	+1.60	
Gilt Edged	799.20	840.30	+7.60	
Interest Fund	456.60	480.60	+0.50	
Managed Fd	653.90	687.60	+5.20	
Intl Equity	742.20	781.20	-11.50	
North American	343.10	361.80	+6.30	
Far East	368.20	387.50	+6.70	
Intl Currency	274.10	288.50	+1.90	
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	679.70	715.40	+1.80	
UK Equity	1017.70	1071.20	+3.50	
Overseas Equity	557.50	586.80	+1.10	
America	644.40	678.30	+17.50	
Far East	434.70	457.50	-12.00	
Property	245.10	258.00		
Fixed Interest	497.40	523.50	+4.90	
Indexed Gilt	287.40	302.50	+2.90	
Deposit	248.00	261.00	+0.20	
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 386, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	189.60	199.70		
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2117.30	2228.60	+14.80	
Equity Fund	5056.30	5322.30	+31.50	
Property Fd	756.90	796.70	+0.40	
Fixed Int Fd	796.90	827.70	+10.90	
Deposit Fund	403.20	424.40	+0.40	
Ind Fund	329.30	346.60	+2.80	
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	456.20	481.30	+0.40	
Fxd Interest Acc	314.10	331.40	+2.70	
International Acc	323.50	341.30	+5.00	
Managed Acc	299.20	315.70	+0.70	
Property Acc	226.50	239.00	+1.90	
Money Acc	174.10	183.90	+0.10	
Spec Mkt Acc	246.90	260.50	+0.50	
Japan Equity Acc	83.20	87.80	-0.40	
N Amer Acc	270.60	285.50	-8.00	
Pacific Acc	103.00	108.70	-1.30	
European Acc	303.10	319.80	-0.20	
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.00	153.70	+0.10	
Prop Acc (Gross)	377.40	397.30	+0.40	
Inv Equity	1989.10	2093.80	+2.30	
Inv Managed	1251.80	1317.70	+1.60	
Ret Managed	1478.80	1556.70	+2.60	
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 528334				
Managed	504.10	525.20	+7.90	
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	1116.20	1175.00	+3.00	
Equity Fund	2552.60	2687.00	+4.10	
Intl Fund	796.10	837.00	+4.90	
Fixed Interest	712.40	749.90	+5.00	
Property Fund	554.80	584.00	+0.30	
Cash Fund	414.50	436.40	+0.40	
Pacific Basin	273.00	287.40	-0.30	
N American Fd	478.60	503.80	-11.20	
Euro Fund	476.90	502.00	+0.50	
Balanced Fund	220.40	232.10	+0.50	
Strategic Fund	249.30	262.50	+1.90	
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	1079.70	...	...	
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	
Op Prop	560.00	589.50	-0.10	
Op Equity	1541.90	1623.00	-9.60	
Op High Yield	770.70	811.30	+3.90	
Op Managed	1126.80	1186.10	+0.20	
Op Deposit	445.70	469.20	+0.40	
Japan Smlr	132.10	139.00	+3.00	
Managed Gth	379.30	399.30	-5.30	
British	601.70	633.40	+8.40	
Global Bond	126.70	133.40	-1.40	
Gold Share	67.60	71.20	+0.80	
Japan	290.60	305.90	+3.10	
UK Smlr Cos	675.70	711.30	+9.90	
Mngd Growth	656.00	690.50	+6.60	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	546.60	575.30	+1.00	
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	104.00	110.10	+0.50	2.23
Deposit Fund (2)	432.90	457.20	+0.70	7.78
Gilt Fund	673.90	711.80	+6.00	7.27
Global Equity Fd	288.50	305.30	+1.80	
Property Fund Her	134.80	142.70	...	6.66
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	916.30	946.60	-20.00	
Fixed Interest	462.30	486.70	+2.60	
Index-Linked	237.80	250.40	+1.80	
International	540.37	568.80	+8.00	
Property	352.80	371.40		
Cash	259.90	273.20	+0.10	
Managed	634.40	667.80	+4.10	
Cap Gtred Bd	193.00	203.10	-0.20	
95% Safeguard	114.30	...	+0.30	
100% Safeguard	104.40	...	+0.20	
Wealth Pres Cap	113.90	...	-0.50	
Wealth Pres Inc	83.50	...	+0.30	
BonusBond	106.40	...	-0.10	
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	207.04	217.94	+0.20	
Index-Linked	204.20	214.90	+1.40	
Fixed Interest	235.30	247.70	+2.40	
Mixed	369.70	389.20	+1.80	
UK Equity	377.20	397.10	+2.50	
International	341.80	359.80	+4.00	
American	486.10	511.70	+10.40	
Japan	182.40	192.00	-3.20	
European	434.70	457.60	-0.50	
Pacific	275.30	289.80	-7.90	
Technology	627.20	660.30	+7.60	
Fren Bd/Cnty	249.80	262.80	+1.60	
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	265.40	279.40	+0.30	
UK Equity	597.00	628.60	-3.20	
American	424.60	447.00	-6.70	
Pacific	292.70	308.20	-5.50	
European	710.80	748.40	-1.70	
Global Mgd	376.10	396.00	-1.70	
Fixed Interest	309.70	326.10	+3.00	
Index Linked	245.70	258.80	+1.80	
Deposit	222.70	234.60	+0.30	
Managed	408.80	430.40	-1.80	
Worldwide	137.00	144.20	-0.40	
Pen Worldwide	147.10	155.00	-0.10	
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2330.00	2402.10		
Safety Fund	313.60	330.10	+2.00	
Growth Fund	331.90	349.40	+0.30	
Opportunity Fd	340.40	358.40	+1.60	
Cash Fund	197.70	208.20	+0.30	
European Fund	551.40	580.50	-2.40	
Gilts & Fxd Int	269.60	283.80	+4.10	
Index-Linked Fd	226.00	237.90	+1.80	
International Fd	343.60	361.70	+0.50	
North American	424.80	447.30	-8.60	
Property Fund	139.20	146.60		
UK Equity	396.40	417.30	-0.40	
UK Smaller	330.20	347.60	-1.30	
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	385.10	405.50	+1.40	
Equity	452.20	476.10	+2.80	
International	341.80	359.60	+2.30	
Property	270.00	284.30	+0.20	
Fixed Interest	322.80	339.80	+1.90	
Index Linked	227.30	239.30	+2.50	
Cash	210.00	221.20	+0.20	
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1142.20	1215.20	+1.20	
Cash Fund	383.40	404.10	+0.40	
Property Fund	349.80	368.60	+0.40	
Equity Fund	1150.50	1224.00	+5.00	
Fxd Interest Fund	634.70	668.90	+2.90	
International	484.10	513.00	+2.90	
High Income	1144.00	1217.10	+1.80	
Far East	452.70	481.70	-5.40	
North American	944.80	1005.20	+17.80	
Special Sits	1019.00	1084.10	+6.20	
Technology	1153.40	1227.50	-28.30	
Extra Income Fd	817.70	857.20	+4.50	
Gilt Fund	560.80	596.70	+0.60	
European	234.30	249.30	+0.30	
Adventurous Mgr	275.30	290.70	+1.20	
Secure Mgd	203.60	214.60	+0.80	
Equity Inc Dist	162.70	171.50	+1.30	3.94
Managed Dist	137.10	144.50	+0.80	4.61
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	477.80	508.30	-1.10	
North America	577.00	613.90	-13.30	
Far East Fund	466.10	495.90	+6.90	
Global Managed	623.80	663.70	+1.00	
Deposit Fund	254.60	272.30	+0.30	
Prime Residential	148.80	156.70	+0.20	
European Fund	417.00	443.70	+2.00	
Fixed Interest	64.40	68.50	+0.40	
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1482.60	1482.60	+5.10	
Inv Pol 2	1396.70	1407.10	+4.90	
Inv Pol 3	1257.20	1323.50	+4.60	
Inv Cash	360.80	379.80	+0.30	
Mixed Fund	636.70	670.30	-0.30	
Equity Fund	850.40	895.30	+2.00	
Property Fund	307.40	323.70	-0.20	
International Fd	587.10	618.10	+1.70	
Fixed Interest Fd	491.20	517.10	+4.30	
Indexed Stock Fd	247.20	260.30	+2.70	
Cash Fund	261.70	275.60	+0.30	
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	559.30	588.70	+14.90	
Equity Acc	761.40	801.40	-5.00	
International Acc	410.70	432.30	+4.10	
Property	262.70	276.50	+0.30	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	306.20	322.40	+0.40	
Equity	1681.20	1769.70	-3.90	
European	234.60	247.00	-0.30	
Far East	145.60	153.30	-0.30	
Fixed Interest	519.30	546.70	+6.20	
Index Linked	263.40	277.30	+2.20	
International	716.10	753.80	+2.70	
Managed	1006.30	1059.30	-1.30	
Nth American	242.00	254.80	+4.70	
Property	434.80	457.70	+0.80	
Pensions				
Cash	497.30	523.50	+0.70	
Equity	2671.90	2813.60	-14.70	
European	324.10	341.20	-0.70	
Far East	110.70	115.90	-0.60	
Fixed Interest	784.40	804.70	+10.60	
Index Linked	381.50	402.10	+4.20	
International	1086.00	1143.20	-0.50	
Managed	1539.10	1620.20	-1.60	
Nth American	341.20	359.70	-7.70	
Property	661.80	696.70	+1.30	
Stock Exchange	341.30	359.30	+1.10	
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1045.80	1100.80	-4.70	
Equity Fund	1514.80	1594.50	+17.40	
Fixed Interest Fd	536.50	564.70	+4.80	
Index-Linked Fd	406.00	427.40	+5.30	
Property Fund	609.30	641.30	+0.20	
International Fd	942.60	992.10	-3.90	
N American Fd	500.20	526.50	+5.40	
Far East Fund	208.00	218.90	-0.80	
Deposit Fund	344.30	362.40	+0.50	
[illegible]	£132.80	...	[illegible]	
Worldwide Bond	171.80	180.80	+0.60	
European	301.10	316.90	+1.40	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1060.20	1116.00	+4.90	
Ebor Phoenix Eq	665.00	732.00		
Property Growth				
Property Fund	715.80	...	-0.80	
-do- Acc	460.00	...	+0.70	
Agricultural Fd	948.40	...	+1.00	
-do- Acc	901.50	...	+0.90	
Abbey Nat Fd	519.40	...	+0.60	
Abbey Nat Acc	342.90	...	+0.60	
Investment Fd	563.50	...	+2.50	
Investment (A)	538.10	...	+3.30	
Equity	2238.70	...	+26.70	
Equity Acc	2127.30	...	+23.40	
Money Fund	557.80	...	+0.80	
-do- Acc	524.40	...	+0.80	
Actuarial Fd	425.50	...	+4.20	
Gilt-Edged Fd	505.70	...	+6.10	
-do- Acc	505.70	...	+6.10	
Retire Annuity	1498.50	...	+1.40	
Immed Annuity	301.00			
Bldg Soc Life	259.90	...	+0.30	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc	2235.50	...	+4.90	
Managed Acc	1236.70	...	+23.80	
Equity Account	1998.10	...	+49.00	
Mngd Fund Acc	559.80	589.20	+11.20	
Equity Fund Acc	858.20	903.40	+27.90	
Prop Fund Acc	330.70	348.10	+1.60	
Fixed Int Fd Acc	414.70	436.60	+0.10	
Money Fund Acc	251.20	264.40	+0.30	
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	250.60	263.90	+0.50	
Pers Pens Acc	2864.40	...	+22.00	
Pens Mngd Acc	1331.10	1401.20	+10.70	
Pens Guarantee	326.30	343.50	+0.60	
Pens Equity	572.20	602.30	+4.30	
Pens Property	381.80	401.90	-0.30	
Pens Fixed Int	414.00	435.80	-0.40	
Pens Intl	316.10	332.70	+4.30	
Pens Money	280.40	295.20	+0.40	
Pens Indx-Lnkd	250.70	263.90	+1.00	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1248.50	1314.30	+3.00	
Property Acc	481.50	506.90	+0.80	
Equity Acc	2321.40	2443.60	+3.20	
Fixed Int Acc	534.30	562.50	+3.90	
Cash Acc	355.50	374.30	+0.50	
Amer Equity Acc	666.20	700.30	+15.40	
Japan Acc	205.80	216.70	-2.00	
Pacific Acc	277.50	292.20	-5.00	
Far Eastern Acc	631.50	664.80	-6.80	
International Acc	706.00	743.20	+3.60	
Distribution Fund	358.30	377.20	+2.30	5.34
European	292.60	308.10	+0.40	
Defind Dist	246.20	259.20	+1.30	
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	402.60	423.90	+1.10	
Property Fund	250.40	263.70	+0.10	
Fixed Interest Fd	284.30	299.30	+2.50	
Money Fund	229.20	241.40	+0.37	
Equity Fund	547.50	576.40	+1.50	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1004.20	1057.00	+9.40	
Money Fund	362.90	381.80	+0.40	
Equity Fund	983.00	1034.70	+9.60	
Fixed Interest	362.80	381.80	+3.70	
Property Fund	453.60	477.40	+0.70	
Gresham Pramlington				
American & Gnrl	849.30	894.00	+18.70	
Income	1135.10	1194.80	+11.10	
International Gth	809.50	846.80	+5.00	
Capital Fund	853.20	898.10	+8.40	
Recovery Fund	586.20	617.00	+7.80	
Japan & General	189.30	199.10	-3.60	
Formerly Albany				
Life Funds				
Squirrel				
Bear	20.66	21.74	+0.02	
Owl	29.01	30.53	+0.27	
Bull	31.86	33.53	+0.29	
Stag	25.67	27.02	+0.34	
Gilt Edged	24.70	26.00	+0.34	
Deposit	23.94	25.20	+0.26	
Pensions	17.80	18.73	+0.02	
Squirrel				
Bear	29.28	30.82	+0.03	
Owl	43.72	46.02	+0.53	
Bull	47.08	49.55	+0.53	
Stag	35.64	37.51	+0.42	
Gilt Edged	33.84	35.62	+0.60	
Deposit	32.41	34.11	+0.43	
Pre 1982 Series	24.00	25.26	+0.02	
3-Way Fund		851.56	+7.61	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	545.28	574.01	+5.37	
N Amer Equity	454.01	477.90	+9.08	
Far East Equity	307.70	323.89	+4.12	
Fixed	383.19	403.35	+4.07	
Cash Deposit	234.15	246.47	+0.21	
Property	193.26	203.42	+0.30	
Special Opp	479.31	504.55	+6.65	
Managed	446.76	470.27	+4.18	
Index-Linked Fd	231.45	243.63	+1.34	
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd acc	834.60	878.50	+7.80	
Life Fxd Int Acc	479.50	504.70	+5.20	
Life Equity Acc	1297.20	1365.40	+12.80	
Life Money Acc	340.90	358.80	+0.70	
Life Inv Tst Acc	1097.00	1155.00	+10.20	
Life Intl Acc	508.30	535.20	+3.50	
Life High Inc Acc	1293.20	1361.20	+10.60	
Life Property Acc	304.00	320.00	+0.30	





Warnings about the January 31 deadline prompted a deluge of forms

A £100 fine to ignore

Too-busy Revenue expected to issue penalty notices to the 'innocent' says Susan Emmett

A dispute has broken out between the Inland Revenue and a firm of tax experts which says that up to one million taxpayers could receive a penalty notice for £100 despite meeting the deadline for self-assessment.

The penalty notices for late forms are to be issued automatically during the last week of February. But, because tax offices are struggling to cope with the deluge of forms posted and handed in just before the January 31 deadline, many people may find that their return has not been dealt with in time.

And, says SimpliTax, a subsidiary of the accountants Horworth Clark Whitehill, which specialises in tax returns, a significant number of taxpayers are in danger of being sent penalty notices in error.

Peter Back, director of SimpliTax and a former Inland Revenue employee, said: "It will affect a large number of people. I would not be surprised if the figure approaches one million or more." His claim was flatly rejected by the Inland Revenue which said that the number of people likely to be affected will be "insignificant in comparison to the numbers involved".

A Revenue spokesman said: "That is simply totally incorrect. However, with the numbers involved, there will be occasions when people will receive a penalty [in error]. But the number will be very small indeed."

Out of the nine million forms sent to taxpayers, 2.4 million were returned in January alone. One million forms still have not been returned, but the Inland Revenue says it expects to receive 200,000 of these missing returns during February.

The Inland Revenue added that it expected that all the the forms will be logged, if not fully processed, by the time that it starts the process of issuing the penalties.

Mr Back said: "We are sure there will be a large number of penalties issued in error and they will worry a lot of people. It is going to cause enormous problems. The flow of returns is just not what the Revenue expected." Mr Back added that the Inland Revenue had issued hundreds of thousands of reminders for forms that had already been filed in the run-up to the deadline and that many accountants were still waiting for replies to letters written three months ago.

He is also concerned that Inland Revenue staff are about to come under more pressure as there are only six weeks to go before the next batch of returns are due to be issued for the new tax year.

He said: "Self-assessment is an enormous undertaking and the Revenue is not resourced properly. It is not the fault of the staff, but it can only get worse."

Taxpayers who receive a penalty notice, even though they posted back their return before the January deadline, or who find they are being charged interest as a result of a Revenue error, must make an appeal within 30 days.

If this is not successful, a letter should be written to the Officer in Charge. Failing that, a complaint should be addressed to the Inland Revenue Adjudicator setting out the details, including the date that the form was filed.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Lest we forget the widows

From Mrs Caroline Florence
Sir, Despite Major Foulis's arguments (Weekend Money Letters, January 10), I believe most strongly that military pensions are long due a reform.

I was married for 31 years to Squadron Leader (Eng) Frederick Florence who served his country in the RAF for 26 years. Through no fault of his or mine, this was a second marriage (we had both been widowed) and as such the Ministry of Defence regards this as a non-qualifier for a part pension for me on his death. I was therefore left with only a small state pension. Does Major Foulis know the heartache of having to sell his home because of financial restriction? His argument has a "pull up the ladder, Jack" mentality about it.

Why is it that the Government can find £500 per week for a man who has not worked for 15 years but has fathered 11 children? Where is the justice in denying a pension to the widow of a man who went through two wars to save us from perdition, and yet the Department of Social Security can pay out this money to this iniquity?

In July 1996, Simon Hughes, MP, attempted to have a Bill passed to rectify this pension wrong, but was defeated. Major Bonnet in his letter of January 24 was explicit in his explanation, and we widows are very grateful to him and the Officer's Pension Society for their efforts on our behalf.

I am now 80 years of age and have lived in hope for four years that I might end my days without financial worry. "Lest we forget" has a hollow ring to me.

We now have new Labour with all its pre-election promises. Dare I hope that someone in authority will read this and do something about it?
Yours sincerely,
CAROLINE FLORENCE,
15 Alveston Gardens,
Arbroath, Angus.

From John Constant
Sir, Jenny Grove's article in *The Times* (January 31) highlights one aspect of successive governments' unfair attitude towards the widows of servicemen.

An even more vicious anomaly is the complete deprivation of all Service pension from the widows whose marriages took place after their redundancy.

Although the word "unfair" is frequently heard in the House of Commons, when other matters are under discussion, I believe that such confiscation is NOT applied to the widows of ex-MPs!
Yours faithfully,
JOHN CONSTANT
(Brigadier, Retd),
The River Cottage,
Coombe Road,
Dartmouth, Devon.

A tax in all but name

From Mr D. G. Pearson
Sir, Clive Scott-Hopkins (January 31) challenges my assertion that a change to future taxation is not retrospective taxation and that removing some of the existing Pep allowances cannot be likened to removing the old investment income surcharge.

He makes the point that while the surcharge was simply a change in the tax rates removal of Pep allowances amounts to a change of contract terms. Not so. There is no Pep contract with the Government. No consideration has passed from the investor to the Government (quite the reverse in fact). Both are pieces of tax legislation. One requires extra tax to be paid on investment income, while the other requires less.

My dictionary definition of retrospective is "not restricted to the future, licensing or punishing past actions". The tax changes only apply to the future — no tax savings from the past are being reclaimed. If Mr Scott-Hopkins believes that his past actions have been punished then this implies that he had known they would only have a limited life, he would not have invested in a Pep, but would have gone on paying tax instead.

He ends by comparing the proposed change with stopping the tax-free status of National Savings Certificates. It is my understanding that the rate of interest paid on old issues of these certificates is substantially less than that available now — not so very different from taxing them.
Yours faithfully,
D. PEARSON,
Moravka,
Beech Grove,
Amersham,
Buckinghamshire,
HP7 0AZ.

Look again at pension funding

From Mr Raymond Nottage
Sir, In "The Passive Option" (January 24) Patrick Collinson examined the pros and cons of index-based pension funds, and asked: "Do we really want 35 million people with all their pension money in equities?" He did not, however, pose the related question: "Could the enormous funds that 35 million people would accumulate actually be accommodated in the shares of the stocks that particular indices contain, or are likely to contain?"

What, for example, would be the effect on the prices and yields of those shares? Private investors already in them would presumably be assured of enviable capital gains. But what of the yields that would eventuate for the benefit of the prospective pensioners? Would they not equally surely become derisory?

Our financial analysts should, I suggest, pay more attention than they have hitherto done to the market possibilities and consequences of a substantial increase in the funding of pensions — especially as our European neighbours might come to follow the course now contemplated by the UK Government.
Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND NOTTAGE,
Flat 29,
119 Haverstock Hill, NW3.

Cyber Web nets many investors

From Mr Alex Scott
Sir, With reference to last Saturday's article in Weekend Money, there are a number of other investor groups using the Internet. I have been a member of PING for a couple of years (http://personal.redestb.es/mroberts/ping.htm). You can also find advice from investment guru Pushkin, free of charge, on http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/ Floor/8700.
Yours faithfully,
ALEX SCOTT,
alexscott@compuserve.com.

■ Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

YES!
UP TO A THIRD MORE FOR MY OLD ENDOWMENT
If your 'with profits' policy is over 7 years old with a surrender value over £2,000 call now with the details, or see Teletext pages 541/2.
0845 20 20 200 local rate line, always open
Policy Plus
DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES
Direct Line Instant Access Account
UP TO 7.25% GROSS*

MORTGAGE RATE
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

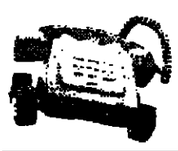
VARIABLE RATE	APR
7.94%	8.2%

PERSONAL LOAN RATES
Direct Line Personal Loans

AMOUNT OF LOAN	APR
£3,000	13.9%
£6,000	12.8%
£10,000	11.8%

All rates correct at 2nd February 1998.

0181 667 1121 SAVINGS
0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES
0181 680 9966 PERSONAL LOANS



DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES
www.directline.co.uk

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number quoting ref. TTBB43

Mortgages and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RB. For savings, deposits and withdrawals via your bank account – allow 4 working days. *The gross rate is the rate paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. Full terms and conditions of the account are available on request. For mortgages, security is in the form of a first Legal Charge. Standard Security over the property will be required. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £300,000 are available for up to 40% of the property valuation or purchase price whichever is the lower. 90% loan maximum available on request, subject to status. All rates quoted above are variable.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.



The Scottish Widows European PEP

A PEP WITH SUPERB GROWTH POTENTIAL FROM ONLY £50 PER MONTH

SPECIAL 1% DISCOUNT AVAILABLE NOW*

Save each month with the Scottish Widows European PEP and you could enjoy superb returns on your money. That's because it offers the tax-efficiency of a Personal Equity Plan and the potential for real capital growth. The PEP invests in our European Trust. Had the Trust been available as a PEP since 1986, it would have returned an average 15.7% p.a.† Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

What's more, we're offering you a 1% discount* and a FREE £10 Marks & Spencer gift voucher if you apply by 27th March 1998.

To discover more, simply call the number below** or return the coupon opposite.



- *Save from as little as £50 per month or £1,000 lump sum*
- *Currently free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax*
- *Excellent capital growth potential*
- *Withdraw money at any time*

DON'T MISS THIS OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY! REQUEST MORE INFORMATION TODAY.

NO COST. NO OBLIGATION. NO SALESPERSON WILL CALL.

Please return to: Scottish Widows, Customer Services Department, FREEPOST EH2920, 16 Bernard Street, Edinburgh EH6 6PP.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
First name(s) _____
Address _____
_____
Postcode _____
Telephone No. (work/home) _____
Date of Birth _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Open to UK residents only, aged over 18 and resident in the UK for tax purposes.

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you about our other products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐

reference number: 314BH1

CALL NOW ☎ 0845 845 4000
and quote reference number 314BH1

SCOTTISH WIDOWS
Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

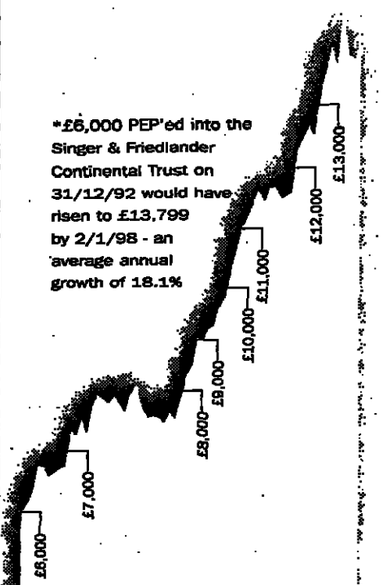
†Source: Micropal. Based on £100 per month from 14.2.86 to 1.11.97. Offer to Bid prices. With gross income re-invested. Over the 5 years to 1.11.97 the same investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 16.1%. The figures shown illustrate what the return would have been if the Trust had been eligible for inclusion in a PEP at its launch in February 1986. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rate change may cause the value of any overseas investments to go up or down. We will recover any overseas taxes wherever possible and practical. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. The value to an investor of any tax advantages depends on personal circumstances. *The 1% discount on monthly payments assumes charges at their current level. Applies to all payments to new monthly plans effected by 27/3/98 and to new lump sums received by that date. **For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored.

Singer & Friedlander

Continental PEP ISA FRIENDLY

18%* p.a.

Performance that's a cut above the rest



*£6,000 PEP'ed into the Singer & Friedlander Continental Trust on 31/12/92 would have risen to £13,799 by 2/1/98 - an average annual growth of 18.1%

If you believe in the economic arguments for European Union, you should consider investing this year's PEP into a European fund with an outstanding performance record.

- Continental economic growth rates are recovering strongly.
- Increased efficiency and privatisations have created major opportunities for shareholders.
- Investors will gain should Sterling fall from its current level.
- We believe EMU will create exciting opportunities for European investment.

Contact us today for a PEP application and our free report: "The Case for European Investment in 1998"

Freecall 0800 0685544

1% Discount on investments before 31/3/98

To: Singer & Friedlander Portfolio Management Ltd., FREEPOST LON 2280, London EC2B 2AA.
Fax: 0171 867 8780.
E-mail: information@singers.co.uk.
Please send me full details of your Continental Trust PEP.
I am also interested in consolidating my PEP investments under one manager (please tick) ☐

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:
Initials:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode: DT 14/2

Singer & Friedlander

† Insofar as regulations allow we will transfer clients' PEPs into an ISA without penalty.

* All performance source: Micropal, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. The value of units and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. The Government has announced that the income tax rebate will not be reclaimable after 6 April 1999 and that other benefits may change with the planned introduction of Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs). Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of units. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Singer & Friedlander Portfolio Management Ltd., 21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR. Regulated by IMRO. If you do not wish to receive information about other Singer & Friedlander products, please tick ☐

هكذا من الأصل

Some home truths about getting away from it all

Patrick Collinson on the problems for globetrotters before setting foot out of the door

If only it were as simple as switching off the electric and asking the neighbour to look after the cat. The growing number of thirtysomethings taking a year out for that promised round-the-world trip face having to sort out a frightening range of property, tax and general financial affairs before heading off to the sun.

Top of the list is property. Whether the year out is because of employment abroad, Voluntary Service Overseas or purely for travel and leisure, most people's main area of concern is what to do with their home in the UK. Selling is an option, but the near-impossibility of synchronising the sale with the departure date, and the lack of a home on your return, tend to rule out that option.

Letting is far more common, but it is not a simple choice between finding a managing agent at a cost of 15 per cent of the rental income or attempting to do it yourself. Maurice Fitzpatrick, a partner at the accountants Chantrey Vellacott, said: "Assuming you have a mortgage, you have to notify your lender that you are no longer entitled to receive Miras as you have ceased to occupy the property for your own use."

The lender is also likely to raise the interest rate on the mortgage by 1 per cent for the period it is let. Buildings and contents insurers have to be informed and are almost certain to charge extra if a property is tenanted.

Mortgage costs will, thus, go up rather than down, but relief is at hand. Mr Fitzpatrick adds: "Full tax relief is given against the interest paid on the loan, which for most people will eliminate the extra costs from the loss of Miras. If there is still rental income left after that, in principle it is taxable, but even while you are out of the UK you and your partner are still entitled to the personal allowance on UK earned income. Therefore, it is unlikely that tax should be a problem."

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) strongly recommends to the 2,000 people it has abroad at any one time to engage a solicitor to draw up a tenancy agreement. It said: "Do not rely on trust. Always insist on formal agreements and expect the worst. Experience suggests that this is an appropriate maxim, even where the tenant is well known to you." VSO also recommends a formal agreement to ensure that a landlord has a right of repossession, particularly if things work out badly abroad and you wish to return home early.

UK income tax causes the most problems for people going abroad, says Adrian Mallender, a VSO adviser. He said: "People classify themselves as non-resident when they go abroad, which can take you up a very difficult path with the Inland Revenue and the DSS. It also means you lose any personal allowances in the UK. The vast majority of people going overseas who will be returning in a year or two are better described as 'ordinarily resident', in that they normally reside in the UK over the longer term."

> "Do not rely on trust, always insist on formal agreements and expect the worst"

Many people expect a tax rebate on leaving the UK, but the Revenue will only pay a rebate after the end of the tax year in April. As a general rule, an individual is considered to come under an overseas tax jurisdiction if he or she spends more than a whole tax year abroad and visits the UK for less than 183 days per year.

Anyone going abroad should advise their local tax office of their departure by filling in Revenue form P85 and claiming a cessation payment. The Inland Revenue offers a pamphlet on the tax implications of temporarily living abroad called IR20 *Residents & Non-Residents*, obtainable from local tax offices.

Mr Mallender added: "My advice is to contact your local Revenue office directly and tell them exactly what you are doing. If you try to be a smart alec they will treat you like a smart alec. If you are honest and truthful, things will be sorted out quite quickly."

People should not imagine they can avoid taxes such as capital gains tax just because they are abroad. Mr Fitzpatrick said: "There are lots of myths about going abroad, selling all your assets and escaping tax. A capital gain on disposal of an asset may still be taxable at UK rates." Some individuals may set off globetrotting after receiving a large lump sum or if they have substantial savings. But while it sits in a UK bank or building society account it is likely to be needlessly taxed at the basic rate of tax.

Malcolm Rose, a financial adviser with the Funding Partnership in Radlett, Hertfordshire, said: "There can be a lot of merit in setting up an offshore savings account in a place like Dublin, especially if you are likely to be going abroad again, to ensure the interest is paid gross and not taxed at source."

For large sums, he recommends Scottish Mutual International's Safety Plus fund, which aims to guarantee most of the capital and offer stock market returns with tax-free roll-up. He also advises clients that if they have a personal pension or an endowment then most providers allow a payment holiday of up to a year.

The state pension is probably the last thing on a globetrotter's mind, but failing to pay national insurance (NI) can affect your pension. A spokeswoman for the Contributions Agency said: "If it is a young person travelling abroad, they are not likely to be adversely affected. We will send out a deficiency notice which will detail how much you need to pay to qualify fully in future. If you are working abroad the same applies, but you should get in touch with us before you go, as there might be a reciprocal arrangement with another country on NI contributions."

TONY WHITE



Lee Garrett says he made a big mistake letting his home without a managing agent

Letting agent fee is small price for peace of mind

Stockbroker's assistant Lee Garrett, 28, admits he made a big mistake when he chose not to use a managing agent to look after his home in Kennington, South London, while he went abroad for a year (Patrick Collinson writes).

Only two weeks after landing in Sydney, Australia, disaster struck. A slow leak from the washing machine in his flat gradually seeped through the floorboards until the kitchen almost collapsed into the flat below.

Instead of soaking up the sun on Bondi Beach, Mr Garrett was on the phone to insurance companies in the UK and trying to placate his tenants. He said: "I was put off using a letting agency because they generally asked for about 15 per cent of the rent, but it was a mistake. If you get problems while you are overseas it's incredibly difficult to sort them out. If it had been fully managed I wouldn't have had anything to worry about."

Mr Garrett planned long in advance for his round-the-world trip, which took in four months of travelling round the Far East, yet he still found himself sorting out financial and property affairs until the day he left. "You try to avoid it, but you still end up doing things at the last minute. You always need more time than you think. One of the biggest problems for me was matching up the date I wanted to leave with the date that the tenants wanted to move in."

But Mr Garrett, who returned two weeks ago, has no regrets about going abroad. "I'd recommend it to anyone. Just don't time it to come back to London in February!"

Invest On-line is a trading name of Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England with No. 2170262, a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. The registered office is 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB. Member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Marketing Group and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority solely for its insurance, pension and unit trust business, and by IMRO. For your security all calls are recorded. The value of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up. The current tax position may change in the future. FTSE® is a joint trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Limited and the Financial Times Limited and are used by FTSE International Limited under licence. The FTSE All-Share is calculated by FTSE International Limited in conjunction with the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries. FTSE International Limited does not sponsor, endorse or promote this product. All copyright in the index value and constituent list vests in FTSE International Limited. Royal & Sun Alliance has obtained full licence from FTSE International Limited to use such copyright in the creation of this product.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

Just head straight for the phone and ring Invest On-line, the direct investment centre of Royal & SunAlliance. The UK Tracker PEP offers the best value in the All-Share Tracker PEP market for a minimum lump sum investment of £6,000.

The annual management fee is an unbeatable 0.3% with no initial or exit charges.

Also, if you already have a PEP, it is easy to transfer any fund of £10,000 or more. Don't delay, the quicker you transfer, the sooner you could start saving on management charges.

To take advantage of this limited offer, call free now on 0500 100 333 or clip the coupon below for full details. Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

TALK TO US ABOUT THE UK TRACKER PEP FREE ON

0500 100 333

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM

FAX NO: 0118 934 8212 E MAIL: invest@rsaonline.co.uk

PLEASE QUOTE COUPON CODE BELOW

Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479,
CODE: BAY Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... Forename.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel(daytime).....

(home)..... Date of birth...../...../.....

BIGGER CASH PAYMENTS FOR ENDOWMENTS! CALL FREE 0800 783 0862.

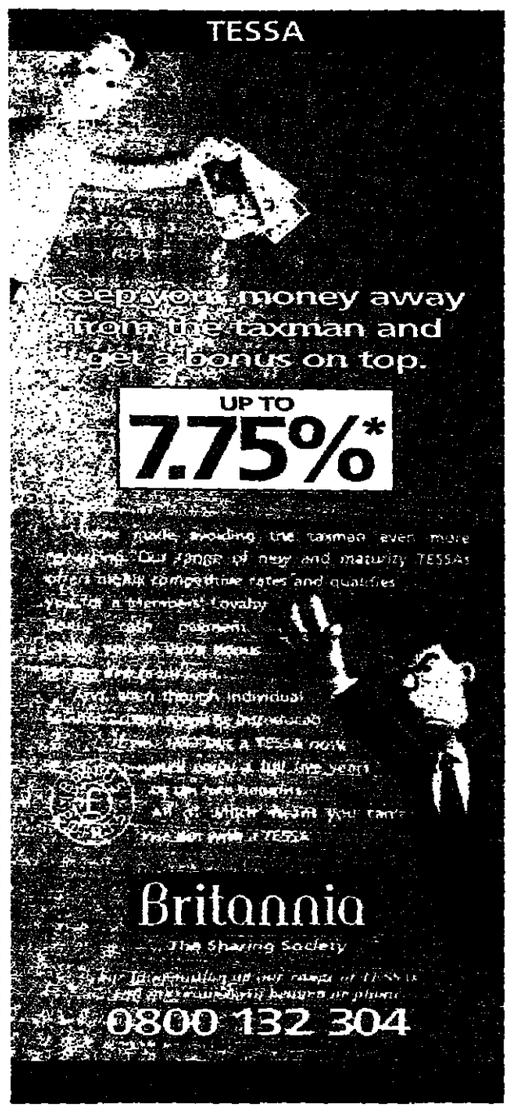
The UK's biggest buyer pays top prices for policies.
Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria.

SEC

FAX: 0181 207 4950

SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC
SEC House, 49 Theobald St., Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4RZ.

TESSA



*Platinum TESSA (without UK income tax deducted). Initial investment is £3,000. No withdrawals allowed during the five year term. Interest is variable and is paid on each anniversary. Annual cash payment from the Members' Loyalty Bonus Scheme is subject to tax. Rates correct at time of going to press. Britannia Building Society Britannia House Leek Staffordshire ST13 5RG. Lines open 9am - 7pm weekdays, 9am - 12 noon Saturdays and 10am - 2pm Sundays.

Newton. No. 1 since PEPs began. No. 1 as PEPs come to an end.

Quartile Ranking over the following time periods*.

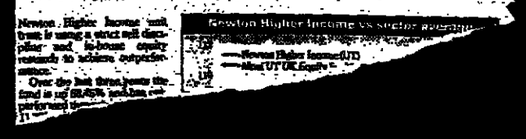
	1 year	3 years	5 years
Newton European	1st	1st	1st
Newton Managed	1st	2nd	1st
Newton Higher Income	1st	1st	3rd
Newton Income	1st	2nd	1st
Newton International Growth	1st	1st	2nd
Newton Japan	1st	1st	1st
Newton Oriental	1st	2nd	2nd

Can you afford to ignore Newton performance?

- The Newton Income PEP has ranked No 1 unit trust PEP over ALL unit trust PEPs since PEPs were launched*
- Last year's performance: Newton European Fund up 28%; Newton Higher Income Fund up 24%; Newton Income Fund up 23%*
- Our aim: ALL Newton PEPs ISA transferable
- And don't just take our word for it:

In-house research and sell discipline prove the key

Newton succeeds



"Newton... is using... in-house equity research to achieve outperformance. Over the last three years the [Higher Income] fund is up 63.45% and outperformed the sector average by 11.32%..."

Call us now on the number below, contact your IFA or visit our website.

0800 614 330

8am - 10pm INCLUDING WEEKENDS

e-mail: helpdesk@newton.co.uk

NEWTON

*Source Micropal figures on an offer to bid basis gross income reinvested for 01.01.98. *The Newton Income Fund No 1 unit trust general PEP fund 01.01.87 - 01.01.98. Please remember that the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange. When charges, as for the Newton Higher Income Fund, are taken from the capital of a fund, the may restrict future capital growth. The Government is proposing to abolish PEPs in 1999 when it is intended that the new Individual Savings Account will be launched. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. For your protection calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. Newton Fund Managers Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. A member of Aust. 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR.

To: Newton Fund Managers Ltd, FREEPOST 2 Portland Square, Edinburgh EH3 0BE 9814/98

Title ..... Surname ..... First name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Daytime tel ..... Date of Birth .....

"Newton has a single aim in life: to increase the real wealth of all of our clients."

هكذا من الاصل

VCTs mature with age

Gavin Lumsden on an investment for those above the £50,000 Isa limit

Fund managers are rushing to launch new venture capital trusts (VCTs) in an attempt to exploit the fears of investors worried about the future of their tax-free savings.

With Peps on death row and no word from "Governor" Brown as to whether he will grant a reprieve on the proposed £50,000 lifetime limit on Isas, VCTs could be the white knight investors with tax-free savings already above this level are waiting for.

Among those charging to the rescue are Murray Johnstone. Already the largest VCT manager with more than £56 million under management, the Scottish company is hoping to raise a further £40 million with its third VCT. Other managers hoping to attract new investors are Advent, Close Brothers, Finsbury Asset Management, Guinness Flight, Ivory & Sime Baronsmead, Northern Ventures and Quester.

The uncertainty over Peps and Isas makes the attractions of VCTs look stronger than ever. Many investors are surprised to learn that VCTs offer superior tax advantages to Peps and allow them to shelter up to £100,000 a year, far more than the £6,000 limit for Peps and the proposed £5,000 level for equity portion of Isa.

Investors get 20 per cent tax relief when they subscribe to a VCT. This means they can effectively get £10,000 worth of VCT shares for £8,000. In addition, shareholders enjoy the Pep-style benefits of tax-free income from dividends and capital distributions. On top of this, investors who invest with the proceeds of a sale of a business or a house can use VCTs to defer the payment of 40 per cent capital gains. This reduces the cost of the £10,000 investment to just £4,000.

The downside is that you have to keep your money locked in a VCT for five years in order to reap the tax benefits. Equally important, VCTs are higher-risk investments, focusing exclusively on unquoted companies with less than £10 million of capital. This is the opposite end of the investment spectrum inhabited by Peps, which can only shelter the shares of publicly quoted companies in the UK and Europe. While shares listed on stock exchanges are never devoid of risk they do, by necessity, belong to established companies with a track record and capital measured in hundreds, not tens of millions.

Moves to create lower-risk VCTs were quashed by the Chancellor in his last Budget. Mr Brown banned the so-called asset-backed VCTs that attempted to get the tax breaks by investing in residential property and nursing homes rather than backing the more traditional venture capital enterprises in the manufacturing, services and technology sectors.



Brown: squashed move

The modus operandi behind the remaining VCTs is to trawl the market for attractive-looking small enterprises, invest in them heavily so they can grow quickly and then sell the stake to return the money to investors.

Like fine wine, VCT shares mature well with age. By law VCTs have three years in which to invest 70 per cent of investors' money in eligible companies. The rest can be held in much safer cash deposits and fixed-interest instruments. In the first year, when the VCT is mostly holding cash, yields will average about 5 per cent. In the second and third years investors' returns will tend to drop as the VCT builds up its capital investment in companies. However, yields will begin to rise from this point as the VCT starts to sell its investment and returns the hopefully enlarged capital by way of dividends. Annual returns could hit 10 to 12 per cent in the last stage.

VCT investing is a long haul. Given the lack of track records among VCTs — none has matured into the profitable third stage — it is not surprising that VCTs have been confined to a specialist corner of the investment market.

According to John Spiers, managing director of BESt Investment, an independent financial adviser in London, this is precisely where they should stay. "Peps and VCTs are not comparable. Frankly, it is irresponsible for managers to suggest that people can carry on with VCTs where Peps have left off. VCTs are only for people with capital gains tax to defer. Just to buy them for the tax shelter is the wrong approach." Gerry Gray of Walsh Lucas, an IFA in York, agrees that people should not put the tax cart before the investment horse when looking at VCTS. However, he believes the riskiness of VCTs has been exaggerated. "Not only are venture capital trust managers doing due diligence selecting companies with good prospects but they actually sit on the boards and help to run the company as well. How many Pep managers can say they know their investments that well?"

Mr Gray recommends VCTs for pensions planning. "You get the 20 per cent tax advantage upfront and you never have to buy an annuity, which means you don't end up paying tax or worrying what interest rates will be doing when you retire, as you do with a pension plan."

In spite of the high ceiling on investment. Mr Gray says VCTs are suitable for ordinary people. His clients put an average of £4,500 in VCTs, although this has been on top of their Pep allowances.

So how do you go about picking a VCT? Mr Spiers suggests investors look for strong management teams rather than firms with individual star managers. Other things to look for in the prospectus are: "How far have managers actually managed to invest the money they have raised to date? If their first VCT is nearly 70 per cent invested, all well and good. If it is substantially below this think again. And have they had any failures? It is normal in this business to get the bad news before the good, but if the manager has had to write off several investments already he might not be up to scratch."

Previous history in the adjoining world of investment trusts can also be helpful. The Close Brothers AIM VCT — which invests in companies on the Alternative Investment Market — is managed by former partners in Rutherford Asset Management. Close acquired Rutherford last year after it lost one of its two investment trusts (Pilot, a smaller companies fund) in a well publicised and bitter battle over performance. Close says the performance of Beacon, the other Rutherford managed investment trust, is better and more pertinent to its VCT.

Similary, Ivory & Sime Baronsmead lost the Enterprise Capital investment trust to 3i, the venture capital giant, last year. Ivory & Sime is now being merged with Friends Provident, the life insurer. Nevertheless, Baronsmead is hoping to issue more shares for its Enterprise VCT before the tax year ends. Then there is Murray Johnstone, manager of Murray Venture. Although there has been no takeover here, its share performance in the past year has not been good.

Runners and riders for Budget

There will be more losers than winners in the forthcoming Budget, according to Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant. Before the Chancellor's speech on March 17, the group has called the odds on its Budget racecard.

Among the losers are expected to be beneficiaries of offshore trusts, where Coopers is offering odds of 1-20 on there being a tightening of rules, while it is suggesting 2-1 on both employee car parking spaces being taxed and more employee benefits in kind being liable to employers national insurance contributions.

On income tax, it is evens, says Coopers, that Gordon Brown will introduce a starting rate of income tax of 10 or 15 per cent, and 50-1 that there will be a change in the basic rate of income tax. The possibility of mortgage tax relief being abolished is assessed as 4-1, while the odds on the abolition of the married couple's allowance are 20-1. The odds of duty on petrol and tobacco increasing over the rate of inflation are put at 2-1.

A dramatic shake-up on capital gains tax looks unlikely, with odds on its abolition quoted at 100-1, though a proposed two-tier rate of CGT comes in at 9-1. Another possible change, an increased annual exemption from CGT, is rated at 10-1.

The odds on the abolition of inheritance tax are 100-1, but the end of tax-free lifetime gifts (Pets) is quoted at 1-9.

For businesses, Coopers is quoting evens on an amendment to the quarterly payment of corporation tax payment and evens on the introduction of environmental taxes being introduced aimed at curbing pollution from industry and farms.

The odds on the rate of insurance premium tax rising are 4-1, while the possibility of a tax on the development of greenfield sites is quoted at 1-4, in the wake of the fierce debate about green belt land disappearing under concrete for new housing.

CLARE STEWART

GUINNESS FLIGHT

GUINNESS FLIGHT SELECTOR PEP

Great Britain Great Performance.

UK Equity In... ...48... ...5 years...
1st de... ...and ...

With the UK equity market doing so well, it's a good time to take a look at the Guinness Flight Selector PEP with its attractive UK based options including the UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust, highlighted above, for income and growth, the UK Opportunities Trust for growth and the Income Share Trust for income. The Selector PEP has 9 further options, among them the popular Global Privatisation Trust, the very cautious Sterling Bond Portfolio Trust, and the adventurous Hong Kong & China Trust. Call now to receive details of a PEP that can suit any investment need today, and promises a free ISA conversion for tomorrow.

FREE ISA ROLLOVER

UK Equity Income ... 30 ... 99 ... 98 ... pa over 5 years
UK Opportunities ... 4.6% ... 99 ... 20.3% pa over 5 years
Income Shares ... 28.9% ... 99 ... ve n 7 ... %
Low 2% annual charge ... recent ... no switch charge

GUINNESS FLIGHT
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

Call 0345 564 564 Open 24 hours

or simply complete the coupon and return to "FREEPOST GUINNESS FLIGHT" (no stamp or further address details needed). Please send me details of the Guinness Flight Selector PEP.

Title Initials Surname
Address
Postcode

†Trusts' performance. Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, offer to offer, gross income reinvested to 1.1.98; UK Equity Income top decile performance in Standard & Poor's Micropal UK Equity Income Sector. Since launch performance: Income Share (18.4.94) 58.6%. UK Opportunities 5 year performance: 152.6%. ††Estimated, gross of tax, net of charges, as of 2.1.98. *Regulations permitting. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Fluctuations in the value of the underlying securities and the income from them and changes in interest and exchange rates mean that the value of these investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. Please note that the Government intends to replace PEPs with "ISAs" in April 1999. The tax advantages of ISAs may or may not be as favourable as those of PEPs. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO.

3683/98

Your Life Assurance can be cheaper

Policy Choice Direct

Our Unique Service is FREE
- Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- Our FREE listings let you compare the rates of the top companies
- We arrange your policy
- We refund your first two months premium

the financial people who let you choose

0500 813913
www.policychoice.co.uk

Not all insurance policies and investments are suitable for everyone so if you have any doubt about suitability ask expert advice.
We do not give financial advice. Policy Choice Direct PLC is an appointed representative of Five Financial which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

WOOLWICH UK STOCKMARKET FUND PEP

146%*

TAX-FREE GROWTH SINCE LAUNCH

FIRST-CLASS RETURNS FROM THE UK'S HIGH-FLYING COMPANIES.

Your savings could really take off with the Woolwich UK Stockmarket Fund PEP.

The PEP invests in the shares of major British companies like BT, Shell and British Airways. Since it was launched on 1.3.91, it has grown by a massive 146.39%*. That's an average annual return of over 13.9%*. Better still, all gains are completely tax-free.

If you want to expand your financial horizons still further, consider our International Managed Fund PEP which invests in the shares of leading companies throughout the world. Or, for a regular income from a lower-risk investment, our Corporate Bond Fund PEP could be just what you're looking for.

You can invest in any of our PEPs from as little as £25 a month or with a lump sum of £500 to £6,000.

To find out more about PEPs, talk to one of our friendly advisers. Just pop into your local Woolwich branch or call us on the number below quoting reference TSF14/2. For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded.

ISA COMPATIBLE

* Source: Micropal Ltd, buying price to selling price from 1.3.91 - 26.1.98, the UK Stockmarket Fund grew by 146.39% with income re-invested (an annualised growth rate of 13.94%).

Get much more with the WOOLWICH

0345 62 63 62

Internet address: http://www.woolwich.co.uk

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INCOME EARNED IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

All references to taxation are to UK taxation and are based on the Woolwich's understanding of UK law and Inland Revenue practice as at 5th April 1997. Tax reliefs referred to may change and their value will depend on your own financial circumstances. Investment proceeds for the Individual Savings Account (ISA) other than contributions to PEPs may not be made after 5th April 1999 but existing PEP settlement will be able to switch their PEP savings into an ISA subject to an overall subscription limit of £50,000. Woolwich plc supervised by Woolwich Life, Woolwich Unit Trust Managers and Woolwich Pan Managers which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions, unit trust and investment business. Woolwich Unit Trust Managers is also regulated by IMRO. Registered Office of Woolwich plc (Registered in England No 3295480), Woolwich Life Assurance Company Limited (Registered in England No 1317211 Woolwich Unit Trust Managers Limited (Registered in England No. 2364634) and Woolwich Pan Managers (Registered in England No. 3230268) at Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RB.

SF31

An Equitable pension means you can vary contributions – without penalty.

You know exactly what your circumstances are today, and can choose a pension plan to suit them perfectly.

But what about tomorrow? Or next year? Or ten years from now?

What you need is a pension plan which is flexible enough to cope with any changes in your lifestyle – without making you pay a penalty.

That is why you should consider an Equitable personal pension plan. We don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, and our expenses are kept enviably low. So, you don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions each year; they can be increased or reduced to suit you – without penalty.

And if you want to retire earlier than planned, your benefits will be exactly the same as if you'd chosen that date in the first place.

What's more, you have the reassurance of knowing that your pension fund is in the hands of one of the finest investment teams in the U.K.

So, if you'd like further information, by post and by telephone, on a personal pension plan that lives up to its name, call (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR TAPTBA
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self employed ☐
I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐
NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
ADDRESS _____
Tel. (Office) _____ Postcode _____
Tel. (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____

Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

"We fixed our mortgage at 5.99% (APR 8.3%) for 3 years...



"Peace of mind & £166 savings every month for 3 years"

...and saved £166 on our monthly repayments!"

This money saving mortgage, for purchase or remortgage, is funded by a major Lender, and is available EXCLUSIVELY through Mortgage Intelligence - Britain's largest group of mortgage brokers.
For details, call FREE anytime on:

0500·10·10·33

· MORTGAGE ·
INTELLIGENCE
The UK's largest group of mortgage brokers.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

TIM 14/2 ISD

هكذا من الاصل



INDEX FUTURES 52

Graham Searjeant on the lure of averages

WEEKEND MONEY

INSURANCE 58

Work despite illness or disability





PHIL NOBLE

David Beckham and Victoria Adams (Posh Spice) learn an invaluable lesson: sound planning leads to wedded bliss

Love and money go together

Anne Ashworth and Susan Emmett say financial skills enhance romance

Valentine's Day is more usually associated with the whispering of sweet nothings than the discussion of joint finances. But, as the recently engaged Victoria Adams, better known as Posh Spice, discovered this week, money matters can interrupt a romantic idyll.

Miss Adams faces a £3,000 VAT and import tax bill on the £15,000 Van Cleef & Arpels diamond ring she bought in Los Angeles for her fiance David Beckham, the Manchester United footballer. We doubt whether Miss Adams and Mr Beckham are scaling back the plans for their wedding as a result of the Custom and Excise Department's determination that no one shall avoid duties. But it is an early lesson for the pair on the importance of financial planning.

According to this week's report from Relate, the marriage guidance counsellors, money is the primary cause of arguments in relationships. But couples are recognising that such disputes can kill romance and are increasingly seeking guidance together. Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners, sees such sessions as one of the best long-term investments.

James Higgins of Chamberlain de Broe, the London firm of financial advisers, commented: "Things have changed. Fifteen years ago we would always be dealing with the man who might bring his wife in if she was coming into town on a shopping trip. The wife would always be in the background. Now we always deal with the couple even though we sometimes have to leave the room while they have an argument."

The bedrock of a solid relationship should be cash in an instant access account and some longer-term savings in equity-based schemes. Each partner needs life insurance, with term cover being the cheapest and simplest option. Each partner should also be saving for a pension, as welfare cutbacks mean that survival on one pension will mean hardship.

Couples should also acquaint themselves with the workings of the tax system.

■ Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has in the last few days made it clear that the Government does not plan to abolish the independent taxation of husband and wife, to ease the introduction of the proposed working families tax credit for the low paid. This means that spouses will continue to be taxed separately, each being entitled to a personal allowance of tax-free income of £4,045. If one spouse is a higher rate taxpayer, while the other pays tax at the basic rate or lower rate, it can be advantageous to transfer savings and investments into his or her name. BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountants, cites the case of a couple, where the husband earns £40,000 and the wife does not work outside the home and where the husband has £20,000 in share dividends and interest and another £10,000 in rental income. If these assets are transferred to the wife, they can save £6,000 plus.

Despite a campaign by churchmen for greater fiscal recognition for the institution of marriage, the married couple's allowance is a less-than-generous £1,830. As the allowance is given only at the 15 per cent rate of tax it is worth just £274.50. As this will be reduced to 10 per cent in April, it represents very little incentive to tie the knot, especially as an unmarried couple supporting a child can also claim the allowance. However, there is some consolation for those who have chosen the married state. A husband and wife each enjoy a capital gains tax exemption of £6,500. Any transfer of assets between spouses is tax-free. As capital gains is another area under review, these benefits could also change in next month's Budget. You can also inherit the whole of your spouse's estate without paying inheritance tax.

If there are few tax advantages for the married, there are even fewer tax benefits to living together. However, each cohabiting partner is able to own a property as a main residence exempted from capital gains tax, whereas a married couple can have only one capital gains tax-free residence.

■ A reluctance to make a will is a besetting sin of both the married and the cohabiting. You should make a will and ensure that your loved ones know its whereabouts. The laws of intestacy, which covers the estates of those who die without wills, allow a spouse automatically to inherit a portion of the other's estate.

However, married couples should still each make a will, to minimise the amount of inheritance tax payable.

The intestacy rules do not recognise the rights of live-in partners. Although you may have been together for decades, you have no automatic rights to inherit. This means that unless your property is in joint names, you can be dispossessed by some distant relation. You can to go to court to claim a share of the estate, if you were financially dependent on your deceased. But the proceedings are long and complicated.

Barclaycard lowers APR in battle to silence rivals

Barclaycard, the biggest credit card provider in the UK, has launched an assault on its cut-price rivals by bringing down the interest rate it charges on borrowing and waiving the annual fee for selected customers.

However, competitors dismissed the changes as "window-dressing" and said few customers would benefit. With an APR of 22.9 per cent the card remained one of the more expensive ways to borrow.

From today, Barclaycard customers who spend £5,000 or more in a year on their card, or £8,000 for Gold Card holders, will receive a full rebate of the annual fee. This will bring the APR (borrowing rate plus card fee) to 17.8 per cent. Card holders who spend £300 or more in a month will receive a 2 per cent APR discount for the following month, rising to 4 per cent if they spend £500 or more. New customers will be charged an introductory rate of 4 per cent below the standard APR.

RBS Advanta, which Barclaycard described as "one of our most aggressive competitors" said customers should shop around.

There are now 1,200 credit cards to choose from in this country, up from just 80 in 1990. Capital One Bank currently has an introductory rate of 6.9 per cent fixed until January 1999.

Mark Austin, marketing director of RBS Advanta, said: "The pricing change is mainly window-dressing. The vast majority of customers will be paying as much as they were before. Less than 20 per cent of people who pay interest on their Barclaycard will benefit from the proposed lower interest rate and only about 10 per cent of people will qualify for the card fee waiver."

RBS Advanta currently offers a rate of 7.9 per cent fixed until January 1, 1999, when it reverts to the standard 17.9 per cent APR.

So if Barclaycard is feeling the squeeze from the US rivals, why not just cut its APR? John Eaton, managing director of Barclaycard, said: "We are not taking a cut-price approach but about half of our customers will see a benefit immediately without changing their behaviour." Barclaycard claims rivals have hidden charges such as fees for exceeding your personal spending limit.

Mr Eaton said banks in the US had in the past charged customers for dormant accounts. However, Mr Austin said there was no evidence it was about to happen in the UK.

Moneyfacts, the money information service, said Capital One Bank was still offering the best rate for borrowers at 6.9 per cent fixed while Alliance & Leicester's cashback card was among the best buys for people who pay off their balances in full each month.

Goldfish, the joint venture card set up by British Gas and HFC Bank, said the average annual spend on a credit card was £2,000. Claire Stroud, marketing director, said: "Customers will have to spend more than double the average before the fee is waived." Goldfish customers pay no fee and a 19.8 per cent APR and can earn points towards their gas bill.

INSIDE



51 Anne Ashworth on credit card wars

HOUSE BUYING

49 Borrowers in the mortgage indemnity maze



INVESTMENT

HALIFAX NR

57 The prospects for windfall shares

WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

Part 2 Saving for beginners



BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

12 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

MOST EXCELLENT.

FUND	ENTRY CHARGES	EXIT CHARGES	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT FEE	GROWTH OVER 2 YRS	GROWTH OVER 3 YRS
FIDELITY MONEYBUILDER GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+53.5%	+67.9%
VIRGIN GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+46.8%	N/A
L&G UK INDEX	0%	0%	0.50%	+46.2%	+59.5%
FT-SE ALL SHARE INDEX	N/A	N/A	N/A	+48.6%	+63.4%

HIGH PERFORMANCE, LOW COST. MONEYBUILDER GROWTH PEP

For outstanding growth, look no further than Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP.

It's an actively managed UK Growth PEP that has consistently outperformed the FT-SE All Share Index, and beaten high profile Index-Tracker PEPs, like the Virgin Growth PEP. Over the last two years it has grown by 53.5% tax-free. Good fortune? No way.

We believe it's down to hard work. We build our portfolios stock by stock with our analysts and fund managers making over 46,000 company contacts all around the world every year. No one explores businesses more thoroughly than Fidelity.

That's the reason our PEPs are so stockpickin' good.

And we don't just stop there. Like all our MoneyBuilders, this PEP comes without any entry or exit charges.* And its annual management fee is as low as many Tracker funds.

So call, send off the coupon, or speak to your IFA.

And find out about our most excellent range of PEPs.

ISA FRIENDLY

At Fidelity, our pledge is that you will be able to transfer Fidelity PEPs into the Fidelity ISA easily and free of any conversion charges.

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 33. Please send me information on Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP. We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.

Name

Address

Postcode Tel TMS1

PEP/ISA HOTLINE OPEN 7 DAYS 0800 41 41 33 www.fidelity.co.uk

Fidelity Investments

JOIN THE WORLD'S No1

*Other than the effect of bid-offer spread, which should not exceed 0.75% for Fidelity MoneyBuilder Growth. Source of performance: Micropal, bid to bid, gross income reinvested to 1/2/98. Performance since launch +61.4%. Reference to range refers to the Fidelity MoneyBuilder products. Resources and assets are as at 31/12/97 and include resources of FMR Corp, a U.S company and its affiliates. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and an investor may not get back the amount invested. MoneyBuilder Growth' denotes' Investments' to Fidelity's UK Dividend Growth Fund (launched 14/2/94). Tax credits on equity dividends will be reclaimable within a PEP until April 1999, when the new Individual Savings Accounts are to be launched. PEPs will cease to exist in October 1999. Transfers to ISAs may be subject to a maximum allowance. The value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP or ISA will depend upon individual circumstances and all tax rules may change in the future. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice. Issued by Fidelity Investments Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. CBZ597

Young saver loses interest

Small savers should be the target of the UK's biggest clearing banks. After all, research shows that most people, once they have gained familiarity with one bank, are unwilling to switch. However, the experiences of Jack Davies, a seven-year-old from Bicester, may well be enough to encourage him to switch to another bank. Harry Davies, his father, said: "My seven-year-old son has just received his bank statement from Lloyds Bank. The account is a Young Savers account: the idea being to encourage the young and, presumably, to catch them early.

"Jack pointed out that he had not earned any interest this month. The short answer was that Lloyds has changed to paying interest quarterly. On looking back to December and earlier, I realised that Lloyds has also changed the interest rate.

"When I spoke to the branch, they said that Jack's interest rate was compounded monthly until October, then Lloyds reduced it to 1 per cent. This is a 42 per cent reduction. They have not informed anyone of this massive reduction. It has soured Jack's opinion of banks and it is no way to encourage the young." Mr Davies claimed that he had not been informed about the change in the rate.

Lloyds pointed out that it had restructured the interest rate on its children's accounts to reward those that had more saved. Previously, the highest amount of interest that could be earned was 2.15 per cent on sums of £500 or more. Under the new tiers, interest rates are much higher for those that have more than £1,000 to save. A sum of more than £1,000 would earn 4 per cent interest. Lloyds said that the rate change was detailed in the branches and through a series of leaflets.

Even with the higher interest rates for those that have more to save, the Lloyds account is not one of best-buy accounts according to *Moneyfacts*, the monthly savings magazine. According to *Moneyfacts*, Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Coventry and Nationwide all offer better accounts. Birmingham Midshires pays an interest rate of 7.25 per cent on a deposit of £25, while Bradford & Bingley offers a rate of 6.5 per cent on a deposit of £10 or more.

CAROLINE MERRELL



Jack Davies examines his savings

هكذا من الاصل

SHOPPING



Heavenly bodies: the sheer pleasures of lace

Page 5

FOOD & DRINK



The Brit brat: animals he ate as a young man

Page 7



Meet the sisters with a soccer habit

Page 20

TRAVEL



Inside the secret Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan

Page 25

THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 1998

Diana: was it murder?

TIM GRAHAM



Mohamed Al Fayed says it was murder. Common sense suggests it was an accident. But still there are unanswered questions about how exactly Diana, Princess of Wales was killed. Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod reveal the results of their painstaking investigation

Less than ten days after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, a new book hit the shelves in Cairo. It was called *Who Killed Diana?* The question was answered in the subtitle, *Order From the Palace: Execute Emad Fayed.*

As preposterous as the idea sounded in Britain, it was taken seriously in Egypt. Millions of Arabs believed that Diana and Dodi were murdered because her marriage to a Muslim would have threatened powerful British interests.

As with any good conspiracy theory there seemed, at first glance, a strong foundation for the belief that somebody wanted Diana and Dodi out of the way. A Muslim marrying into the British monarchy threatened to undermine the Christian basis for the nation that a monarch is sworn to uphold. Given the controversies involving his father Mohamed Al Fayed, Dodi's becoming the stepfather of the future king promised sensational headlines far into the future.

Yet there is no evidence that Diana's union with a Muslim would have posed a threat to Britain's monarchy, political system or way of life. For one thing, it is far from clear that Diana would have converted to Islam. In Muslim tradition, if a Christian man wishes to marry a Muslim woman, he must adopt Islam himself.

It is not the case in reverse. There is no evidence that Diana was attracted to Dodi for religious reasons. For his part, Dodi was not the sort of person who would have applied pressure on her to convert. Although he was born a Muslim, he was a secular man of the world, who had gone to a Catholic school in Egypt and had not lived in a Muslim country since he was 13.

Diana's future choices presented no immediate constitutional challenge as she was no longer a member of the Royal Family. She may have continued to live in Kensington Palace, enjoy more popularity than her former husband and go abroad on missions for British charities, but when she divorced she was stripped of her title, Her Royal Highness, and thus lost her formal role.

At issue, rather, was her 15-year-old son Prince William, second in line to the British throne. The highly speculative scenario was that Diana would convert to Islam and in time would persuade William to do so too. In that event, the problem would still not necessarily be catastrophic for the monarchy. Being a Muslim would make William ineligible to be in the line of succession. His younger brother would ascend instead (unless Harry, too, had converted).

The most serious trouble would come if William converted to Islam after he became king, or did so secretly beforehand and announced the adoption of his new faith after ascending the throne. If William then wished to remain king, it could have precipitated a full-blown constitutional crisis.

Thus the House of Windsor, goes the argument, decided to get rid of Dodi and the Princess because, in the purple prose of Mohammed Ragab, the author of *Who Killed Diana?*, their "declared love for one another, which was on every tongue, threatened to shake the foundations of the Palace and bring down the Crown".

In Egypt, conspiracy theories began circulating immediately after the crash. Within days they were published in the government-owned daily newspapers as well as the sensational tabloid-style weeklies.

Of course, none of the Egyptian reports provided any evidence. They relied on an assumption of motive, a belief in the cold-hearted ruthlessness of British spies, and a raising of unanswered questions. Most of the press stories, as well as *Who Killed Diana?* and several other books on the affair, agreed that the couple were assassinated by MI6 to prevent the mother of the future king of England from marrying, as Ragab put it, "a Muslim Arab whose veins do not carry the blue blood".

In death, the most-photographed woman in the world quickly acquired another end-of-millennium superlative: Queen of the Internet. News of Diana's death hit the World Wide Web at 06:40:59 on Sunday August 31 with a Reuters headline: "Princess Diana Dies After Car Crash in Paris". Thirteen minutes later, the first Web discussion board went up in Australia, appropriately calling itself "The First Diana Conspiracy Site". Within 100 days of the crash, a search for the words "Diana conspiracy" could yield more than 31,000 entries.

The Vatican, the Irish Republican Army and the global arms industry (worried about Diana's campaign against landmines) joined the list of suspects.

One story had it that one of the paparazzi was an MI6 agent who shot Henri Paul, the driver, or the tyres of the Mercedes. In another, photographers were taken into police custody so they could be hypnotised by French police and made to forget what they had seen.

There was the happy-ending theory: a truck was waiting in the Place de l'Alma tunnel and spirited the lovers safely away, to a place where they would never be bothered again by paparazzi. Diana and Dodi sightings, like Elvis visitations, could not be far behind.

Not all the doubts about the fatal crash are being raised by indignant Egyptians or Internet nutcases. People close to Al Fayed claim that the crime scene was not properly preserved, that the Mercedes was removed from the tunnel with "indecent haste", and that initially the French police were ignorant or lied about a collision with a second car, the mysterious Fiat Uno. They continue to insist that the post-mortem on Paul was botched and thus led too easily to the drunk-driver conclusion.

Serious unanswered questions, they say, include why it took medical rescuers nearly two hours to get the Princess to a hospital; why French authorities have not made available tapes from surveillance cameras outside the Ministry of Justice (just next to the Ritz) and along the Mercedes' route, and why MI6, which would have been alerted to Diana's presence in Paris that evening, has failed to come out with what it knows about the crash.

Seeking independent information, Al Fayed has launched his own investigation. A jurist who is familiar with Al Fayed's investigative efforts feels they may be more psychologically than scientifically motivated. "He would find moral comfort in the idea that Dodi and the Princess died in a dramatic attack," says this source, "because the Princess was in love with Dodi and the British Establishment couldn't accept it. I don't rule anything out, but I just can't buy into that line of thinking."

Continued on page 2

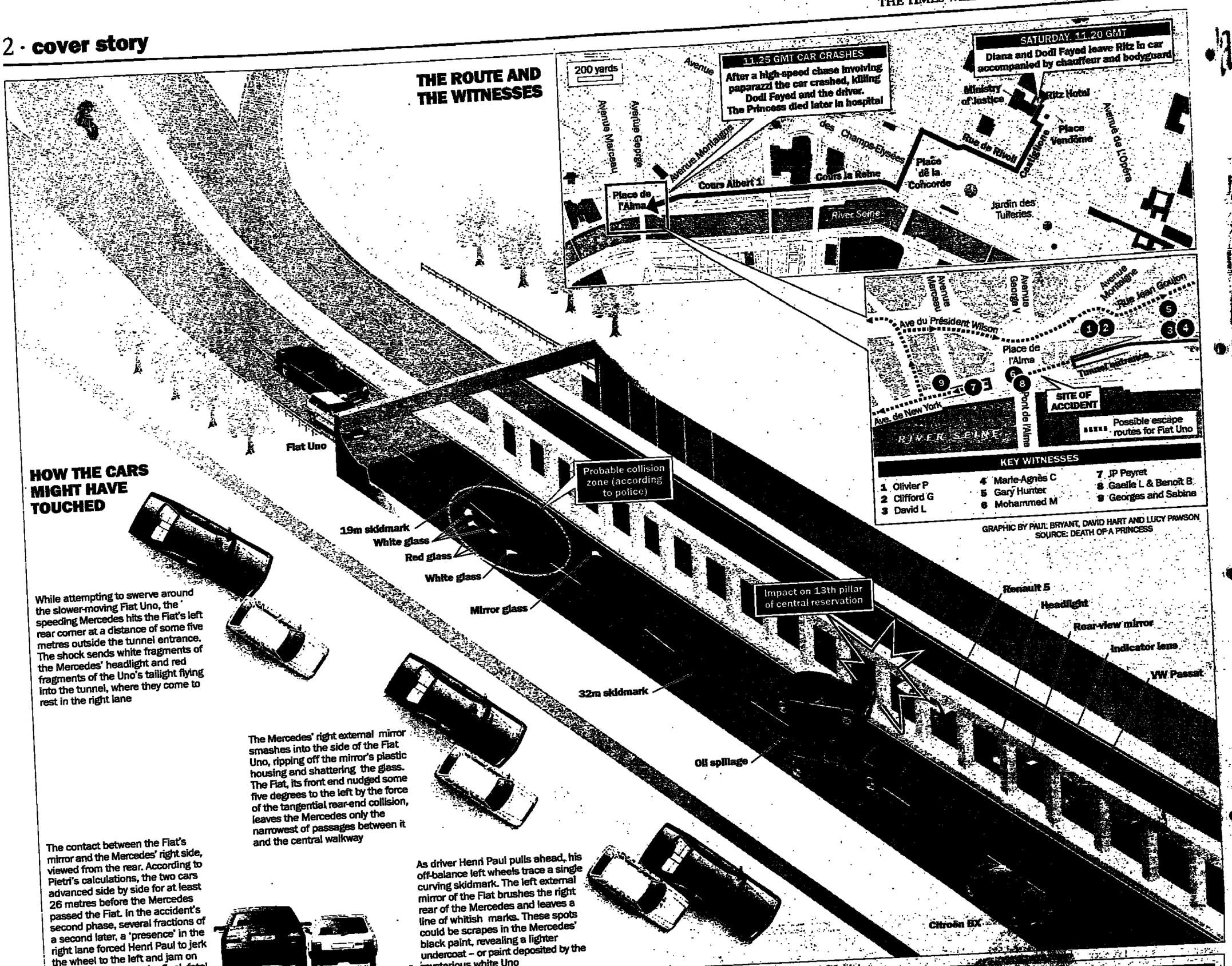
SHOPPING ....4,5 | FOOD & DRINK ....6,7 | HOME LIFE ....8-10 | GARDENING ....12,14 | PROPERTY ....16-18 | COUNTRY LIFE ....21 | TRAVEL ....25-34 | GAMES 39,40

love@first.website

you'll love us for making it so easy for you to get on the net . you'll love us because night and day we're only ever a phone call away . you'll love us because we're the uk's number one internet service provider . so why not call us on 0800 458 9666 . or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad , tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes , that's all you have to write) . we'll send you a free 30-day trial cd and brochure . welcome to the internet . you're going to love it .

Demon Internet
more people get on with us
0800 458 9666
TT1402E www.demon.net/love email : sales@demon.net

هكذا من الاصل



GRAPHIC BY PAUL BRYANT, DAVID HART AND LUCY PAWSON
SOURCE: DEATH OF A PRINCESS

HOW THE CARS MIGHT HAVE TOUCHED

While attempting to swerve around the slower-moving Fiat Uno, the speeding Mercedes hits the Fiat's left rear corner at a distance of some five metres outside the tunnel entrance. The shock sends white fragments of the Mercedes' headlight and red fragments of the Uno's taillight flying into the tunnel, where they come to rest in the right lane

The Mercedes' right external mirror smashes into the side of the Fiat Uno, ripping off the mirror's plastic housing and shattering the glass. The Fiat, its front end nudged some five degrees to the left by the force of the tangential rear-end collision, leaves the Mercedes only the narrowest of passages between it and the central walkway

As driver Henri Paul pulls ahead, his off-balance left wheels trace a single curving skidmark. The left external mirror of the Fiat brushes the right rear of the Mercedes and leaves a line of whitish marks. These spots could be scrapes in the Mercedes' black paint, revealing a lighter undercoat – or paint deposited by the mysterious white Uno

The contact between the Fiat's mirror and the Mercedes' right side, viewed from the rear. According to Pietri's calculations, the two cars advanced side by side for at least 26 metres before the Mercedes passed the Fiat. In the accident's second phase, several fractions of a second later, a 'presence' in the right lane forced Henri Paul to jerk the wheel to the left and jam on the brakes, causing the final, fatal slide into the 13th pillar

Continued from page 1

The murder of Diana and Dodi could not have been hastily arranged. The news that they were dating did not break until August 7. There is no evidence that they informed anyone else of their marriage plans before the morning of August 29, and they died less than 24 hours later. Certainly, a well trained and experienced special forces squad could, with little advance notification, carry out an assassination against a target that had only light bodyguard protection, but the decision process preceding such a mission would have taken far longer.

There was no serious fear that Diana's marriage to a Muslim posed a constitutional danger. A case can just as easily be made that Diana's marriage to Dodi, Muslim or not, might have pleased rather than alarmed the Establishment: given the controversies swirling around his father, her star could have fallen in public esteem. That would have put other members of the House of Windsor in a more favourable light. By killing her, the palace would have achieved the opposite: does anybody doubt that, because of her untimely and tragic death, she will for ever be Saint Diana?

Based on the available evidence — the pursuing paparazzi, the excessive speed of the Mercedes, the alcohol and drug intake of Paul, the dangerous configuration of the Alma tunnel — it now seems likely that Diana and Dodi died in a tragic accident.

While evidence and logic point to the conclusion that the crash in the Alma tunnel was simply a traffic accident, nonetheless, as with any good conspiracy theory, many of the facts surrounding the Paris crash can be arranged to fit a plot scenario. But the seeming randomness of the events makes it difficult to imagine how anyone could have controlled such an operation.

Who could have orchestrated a plot that depended on a last-minute change of escape plans; a substitute car; a drunken, medicated, off-duty driver; a pursuit by a disparate band of French paparazzi; and a chance collision with a small car that just happened to find itself in the path of a speeding Mercedes.

For such a complex plot to succeed, there had to be a number of operatives involved. The most effective would have been inside the Mercedes.

Paul would have been in the best place to bring about the accident. He was a former military man who had regular links with French intelligence services: as the hotel's acting security chief, he would also have been in contact with British and other services in connection with visits to the Ritz by foreign dignitaries. But for him knowingly to execute an order to crash the car would have had to be a suicide mission. Even for a single man nursing a broken heart, under treatment for depression and over-stressed by his job, that hypothesis is difficult to accept — although not theoretically impossible.

More believable is the notion that operatives outside the Mercedes might have engineered the crash. One possible suspect is the driver of the Fiat Uno. This car seems to have been driving towards the middle of the road, partially blocking the path of the Mercedes. There was a tangential collision between the two vehicles just outside the tunnel entrance. But as the Pietri report on the crash has demonstrated, the critical and determining events took place after Paul had apparently regained control of the Mercedes.

At that point Paul suddenly turned the wheel to the left and jammed on the brakes, prompting his fatal slide into the pillar. As Pietri wrote, it was a "presence" in the right lane "that in reality provoked the catastrophe". Pietri suggests the "presence" may have been a twofold danger from the Fiat behind the Mercedes in the right lane and a Citroën BX just in front of it. There is evidence to suggest that the Mercedes and the Fiat may have collided a second time.

Did the Fiat move into the left lane during the second phase? Was it even with, or ahead of, the Mercedes by the time of the final impact? The answer can be found in the testimony of Gaëlle L, who witnessed the crash from inside the Alma tunnel, travelling the opposite way to the Mercedes.



Egyptian newspapers speculated on the cause of the crash





Driver Henri Paul and bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones

In her September 12 interrogation, she gave Judge Stephan, the French magistrate in charge of the investigation, this account: "This [smaller] car, in my opinion, was never passed by the Mercedes. I should specify that, for me, the small car was in the left lane as well, and when the Mercedes tried to pass it on the left, it hit something [the thirteenth pillar], then went into the wall on the right. The little car, seeing that, accelerated. I don't know what became of it."

Gaëlle's boyfriend, Benoit B, described a collision between the two vehicles during this second, critical phase: "I think the Mercedes, which was moving very fast, hit the saloon car and then lost control. At the moment when the Mercedes lost control, this car I am speaking of was just in front of the Mercedes in the same lane. The vehicle accelerated at the moment of the loss of control of the Mercedes. I then saw it take off and when I pulled even with the Mercedes, [the other car] was already far away. We did not see it after that."

Stéphan then asked Benoit about his earlier statement that the Mercedes struck the other car before losing control. "I confirm that. I specify that, for me, the Mercedes hit the first vehicle that preceded it and after that lost control and crashed into the pillar." Benoit describes his position at the time of the impact as being 35 or 40 yards west of the thirteenth pillar. Thus it is clear that the collision he saw was a second contact, not the original impact that took place outside the tunnel entrance.

What about the mysterious motorcyclist who several witnesses reported seeing just behind the Mercedes? Benoit and Gaëlle described seeing a large motorcycle slow down and pass the wreck just moments after the crash. A further witness, Pascal Peyret, heading west in his Saab, was passed by a single motorcyclist just seconds after hearing the final impact.

Before the Mercedes reached the Alma tunnel, several witnesses described one or more motorcycles close behind it. Clifford G reported seeing a single motorcycle 30 or 40 yards behind the Mercedes just as the car entered the tunnel. Several moments earlier, and further to the east, California businessman Brian Anderson's taxi was passed by the Mercedes, closely followed by two motorcycles. One of them seemed headed "in a direction to get in front of the car", said Anderson. "I felt that the one motorcycle was driving aggressively and dangerously."

It is clear that the motorcyclist closest to the Mercedes — the one who slowed down, drove around the wreck, then accelerated and took off — was not one of the photographers arrested that night. It was definitely not the Honda 650 bearing Romuald Rat and Stéphane Darmon, who were the first of the ten arrested photographers to arrive on the scene.

Let us suppose that this motorcycle was working in tandem with the Fiat Uno. Its role might have been to pursue the Mercedes doggedly and aggressively from the Place de la Concorde, forcing it to drive faster and faster as it approached the Alma tunnel.

Francois Lévi, another witness, told police he had entered the dual carriageway from the right-hand access road as the Mercedes was approaching. The Mercedes was closely followed by two motorcycles, Lévi said, and "there was a white car between the convoy and myself". In his rear-view mirror, he claimed to see one of the motorcyles "cut in front" of the Mercedes just before the car crashed. Lévi's claims were not corroborated by other observers.

Writing off Lévi's whole testimony may throw the baby out with the bathwater. Lévi is the only witness who reported seeing a "white" car ahead of the Mercedes, when neither the press nor the investigators were talking about any white vehicle or Fiat Uno.

If the mystery motorcyclist's mission was to tail Paul and force him to speed, the presence of numerous photographers on motorcycles following the Mercedes would have provided an ideal cover. An intelligence service could have made sure such a cover existed by tipping off the photographic agencies — and they were indeed tipped off, some of them via London — about the impending arrival of Diana and Dodi in Paris.

There may well have been agents milling about among the paparazzi outside the Ritz that night. Al Fayed's lawyers submitted to Stephan 13 photographs, enlarged from Ritz security videos, showing several unidentified individuals in the crowd. They have no cameras and are not dressed like tourists; they appear to be surveying the scene. Investigators are also looking for an English photographer who was outside the Ritz. French photographers have told police the man was evasive about which publication he worked for.

Did this mysterious English "photographer", like the French paparazzi, scramble for his motorcycle and take off after the Mercedes?

● ● Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod, 1998

● *Death of a Princess: An Investigation by Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod is published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £18.99. Readers can buy a copy by calling the Times Bookshop on 0990 134459.*

Jerusalem Report
Current Issue | Archive
Chat | Register | Subscribe | Poll | Quiz

MIDDLE EAST

January 22, 1998

Di and Dodi: the Israel Connection

Emad S. Mekay, Cairo

The former ambassador, sounding off in his Cairo club, makes it all sound so obvious. "The Israelis," he declares with supreme assurance, "didn't want her to marry Dodi" — and not just because he was a Muslim. "She was involved in humanitarian issues. She would eventually have come to the Middle East. She would have visited the Palestinian refugee camps. The world's media would have been following her everywhere. That was unthinkable to the Israelis."

She, of course, is Princess Diana, whose death in an August 31 car crash in Paris has inspired innumerable fantastic conspiracy theories. Many center on allegations that the British establishment — led by the royal

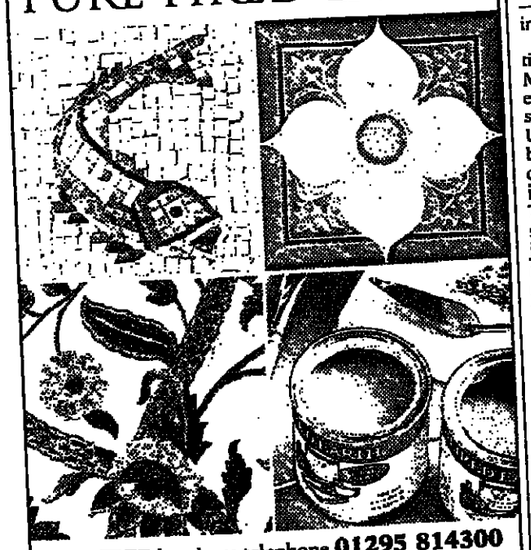
Who Killed Diana?

MSNBC Report

Egyptians Point To a Conspiracy by Western Intelligence Services MSNBC Television (November 1, 1997): By now, many Egyptians have been swayed by the sprawling theories that point to a conspiracy by Western intelligence services to kill Diana. "Of course she was murdered. British intelligence did it. The Palace would never allow Diana to marry a Muslim, convert to Islam and bear Muslim children who would be brothers to the future King of England," said the manager of a popular Cairo bookstore. He then pulled out three best sellers: Who Killed Diana? By Orders of the Palace, The Torture of a Princess and Diana, A Princess Killed by Love. The latest books and articles tend to ignore the allegations that Diana was murdered because she was preparing to marry a Muslim. The writers now tend to favor a popular belief that Diana was also planning to convert to Islam,

The first conspiracy theories went up on the Internet within hours of her death

PURE FIRED EARTH



For a FREE brochure telephone 01295 814300 or return the coupon.

NAME

ADDRESS T 1/42

POSTCODE

Fired Earth plc, Twyford Mill, Oxford Road, Adderbury, Oxon, OX17 3HP.

FIRED EARTH

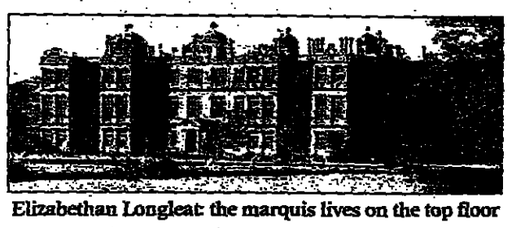
CLASSIC TILES • TRIBAL RUGS • NATURAL FLOORCOVERINGS
TRADITIONAL PAINTS AND FABRICS • REAL INSPIRATION

Paul Heiney joins the Marquis of Bath for six months of wild life, wifelets and mural painting

Padding about with the Lion of Longleat



The gardens seen through a turret of the 118-room house



Elizabethan Longleat: the marquis lives on the top floor



The intriguing Love Maze Lord Bath built in the gardens



MARK HARRISON

Dressed to thrill in one of his favourite exotic outfits, Lord Bath pauses on the spiral staircase where he hangs the portraits of his 64 wifelets. He calls it his "Bluebeard's Collection"

Many breeds of animal, rare and wonderful, lurk in and around Longleat Safari Park. The pity is that the rarest of them all has not, until now, been on public display. Many a car-sticker has boasted, "I've Seen the Lions of Longleat"; few can claim to know and understand the big pussy cat who lives in the house.

Alexander George Thynn, 7th Marquis of Bath, is a rare breed all right. And a bit of a wild animal, too. Rarely a month passes without a gossip column salivating at his unusually multilateral love life and telling tales of his "wifelets".

He coined that word himself. "It was supposed to be an affectionate term, just a little humorous, and to show how seriously I took them," he says. "I needed to get away from words that were in circulation — mistress, concubine and things like that — because that's slightly pejorative and outside the family feeling. I've become a hublet."

But image and reality are not much related, and viewers of all 55 episodes of the BBC's *Lion Country* (yes, 55, the corporation's largest ever documentary commission) may be surprised to find Lord Bath is less of a wild alley cat than anyone could have imagined.

He can snarl, savage and scar when provoked but, for all his irregularities, there is something ineffably cosy about him. He has a charming disposition, an apparent innocence verging on terminal naivety and the appearance, more striking by the day, of a grey-bearded wizard.

He casts his spell over not only his 64 wifelets but most of the people who work for him. And yes, I admit it, I and the film crew grew to love the man in the six months we spent with him, at home in Wiltshire and abroad in St Tropez, while we made *Lion Country*.

The only conclusion I can come to is that on the day God made the marquis, more than 66 years ago, He was in a mischievous mood. Or else using up leftovers: a dash of tortured artist, a splash of anguished writer, a flavouring of philosopher, a streak of showman and a good dollop of what was left over when He made Casanova. They are all fighting for supremacy.

Let us get the obvious over with first. Sixty-four wifelets. It seems rather greedy, especially because he has a wife to whom he has been married since 1969, and two grown-up children. But he thinks not. "I'm 65 and I've had only 64; one a year, on average," he says, as if it were the most ordinary thing in the world.

Where some aristocrats display their hunting trophies in the form of stuffed heads, Lord Bath instead paints his, using a semi-liquid mixture of oil paint and sawdust which can take months, if not years, to dry. Each wifelet, past and present, is hung on the walls of a spiral staircase. You can tell which of the 64 are the more recent: they drip. He calls it his "Bluebeard's Collection".

Furthermore, he will tell you that it is all part of a social experiment, a selfless venture on his part to build a better society for women, and mothers in particular. "I believe in the polymorphous society with many-shaped marital forms in which the state would put an umbrella over however mothers chose to create the family form for their children. I believe she's got to be able to be free to decide what's best for her children," he says.

For most men, there is not the option of returning home, flushed, after a night with the floosie and telling the wife you've been working hard on the polymorphous society. But he means it.

If you feel tempted, as I did, to suggest this is all just an excuse for making whoopee, he replies: "It depends whether you take seriously what has been a life's endeavour. I am trying to think out what works for the world while at the same time trying to discover what works for me. There are times when it is advantageous to oneself, but I actually believe it is advantageous to society." Nice work if you can get it.

But there is no point in pulling his leg. We are dealing here with a true eccentric, not a man who has thrown over himself a cloak of quirkiness for a bit of cheap publicity and commercial gain. He may walk bare-footed through his stately home and appear on the front steps dressed in one of his favourite highly coloured outfits — that of a Ugandan tribal chief — but only because it truly suits him.

A genuine oddity, he lives in a world whose orbit is subtly different to the one in which most of us spin. This makes him at times impossible to fathom. At every turn he will surprise you.

Take his living arrangements. In Wiltshire, this owner of a 118-room Elizabethan house occupies a tiny corner of the top floor. Here, there is no hint of the Barbque and over-gilded furniture that clutters the downstairs bits, which the coachloads come to see. Up aloft in the living area, which is also his office, it is highly contemporary stuff. Floors are grey carpet or polished wood. Furniture is modern, designer, a bit bleak. Unconcerned at the obvious expense of the floors, his mongrel dogs (there are no lordly black labradors here) chew bones. For all Lord Bath could care, the leftovers could lie on the floor for ever, as his clothes do. Part of his philosophy — he says he is a pantheist — is that God can be found in all things natural, even a few dog bones. Luckily he has a "butler" (odd-job man, really), who does not wear uniform but does clean up after the dogs.

Apart from his half-moon desk (the most beautiful I have ever seen, designed by Makepeace and built from wood from his own forest), the most striking feature of the room is the large bed standing in an alcove, the curtains of which work by remote control.

Above the bed, an eye-catching polished wooden pole sticks out of the wall. Given his reputation, the mind starts to wander, but it was later explained that his lordship's habit of watching television in bed is not shared by his current wifelet, so she hangs a curtain on the rod so the light does not keep her awake. They could almost be married.

Should the whim take him, he can summon up an instant disco. Coloured spotlights play on the ceiling, a potent hi-fi comes to life, a revolving ball casts reflections around the room and the lights are wired to pulsate to the music. Longleat can become a Locarno at the flick of a switch.

Given that some of the wifelets are not many years behind his 65, it must be a bit of an effort for them to keep up. Incidentally, you should not glean the impression that all 64 are, shall we say, on call. If pressed for a figure, he will only go so far as to admit that "the number is below ten".

He has two other homes: a flat in North London and a seaside apartment near St Tropez, where he leads a lifestyle less like that of a playboy than you might imagine. He told me, over a flow of rosé wine: "I sat behind Brigitte Bardot once in a restaurant, but the lady friend I was with wouldn't let me turn round to look at her." He added wistfully: "Joan Collins's daughter said I ought to go round for a drink some time, but she never rang."

I can reveal that his two flats look like cluttered student accommodation. He does not move in a conventional aristocratic social round and sees them more as workshops, where he labours at what are the two real loves of his life: his art and his memoirs.

He works obsessively on his autobiography, often writing from dawn to dusk, and has so far amassed 2½ million words; the equivalent of 30 fat novels. "And I'm only up to 1975," he boasts.

Some of his art, however, can be seen and judged. His legendary murals can be found on a vast scale at Longleat. There is nothing else like them this side of a nightmare. I mean that as a sort of compliment, because many of these vast paintings genuinely reflect his deepest fears and obsessions. His tortured relationship with his father is reflected in the agonies of the figures in the first room of murals, the scale and sinister undercurrents of which take the breath away.

The 6th Marquis, unimpressed by his son's art, insisted that the young Alexander could do his daubs if he had to but they should not be painted directly on to the original walls of the house but on sheets of wood so they could be removed at a future date. In fact, one large, vivid mural ended up in the Longleat cafeteria, but was removed to a quieter part of the house because, as one detractor said, "It was putting people off their dinner." One of the house guides told me: "There are some visitors who stay so poker-faced and silent at the sight of the murals that I ask 'Do you understand English?'. It's very embarrassing when they say, 'We are English'."

But if it is not to everyone's taste, Lord Bath loves his painting and to see him in St Tropez at work on 28 portraits of his ancestors (a project completed in eight weeks) is like watching a child who has discovered paint for the first time.

With Lord Bath, however, you never get very far from sex. In the gardens he has a Love Maze and a newly planted Sun Maze crammed with erotic subtlety.

The climax of the tour of his murals, which cover a third of the ground floor of the house, is the Kama Sutra Room. Children are asked to wait outside. Here, again on a breathtaking scale, he spares no gymnastic or anatomical detail. All is lovingly sculpted in that thick goo of sawdust and raw paint which fills the corridors of Longleat with the scent of linseed oil.

The craftsmanship is astounding: a pity it is all spoilt by a silly four-poster bed in the middle of the room with a mirror in the canopy, a fake leopard-skin bedspread and two aphrodisiacal rhino horns bolted to the bedhead. What next? Barbara Windsor?

No discussion of or with Lord Bath is complete without mention of the other "S" word: self. Suspecting a mischievous hand may have played a part in his creation, he needs to know who he is and how he came to be. He is enthusiastic about his family trees, his ancestors; even having DNA testing to establish if he was related to the ancient skeletal remains of Cheddar Man. He was not, but his butler was.

Engage him in conversation about the estate, the house, the safari park or world affairs and he drifts away from you. But talk about him and he is all ears; anxious to explain, keen that you should understand him. Few ever will.

Incidentally, his latest family tree, a genealogical work which is on public display in the new banqueting suite, traces his lineage back to Old King Cole, the one who was a merry old soul. They say family resemblances intensify as you grow older.

● Lion Country *starts on BBC1 on Monday*



Lord Bath at work in the "Disco" room, which is adorned with his legendary murals

A genuine oddity, he lives in a different world to most of us. At every turn he will surprise you



Pensive: the young Alexander Thynn

NEW
New Effigy of the Queen
£5 for £5
Reserve NOW!
UK Legal tender
Diameter 38.61mm
MDM The Crown Collections Limited, P.O. Box 229, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0AY Reg. No. 28 788 99
p&p free!
Official Reservation Form
New Customers Only!
YES, I am a new customer and would like to reserve the Queen's New Effigy £5 coin without commitment. I understand that MDM will ask for payment when the coin is due to be delivered at the face value issue price of £5. I will receive it on 10 days' approval (p&p free) during which time I may return it for a full refund.
(Reservation No.49570-114)
Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address: _____
_____
_____ Postcode: _____
Tel No: _____
Send No Money Now!
Only one coin allowed per household. Issued in Autumn 1998. All reservations are subject to acceptance and status.
MDM
International Royal Mint Distributor
P.O. Box 229, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0AY
The Crown Collections Limited

هكذا من الاصل

Something to chew over

CHRISTOPHER BARKER



Alexandra Bastedo and friends: "I do believe there is a real need for tasty nutritional food for dogs, whether they are carnivore, vegetarian, vegan or macrobiotic"

The penknife is mightier than the sword

MULTITOOLS

Civilisation was a simple business. Our forefathers had teeth and fingernails, then they invented fire which led directly to string, screws, corks, tins and, inevitably, the Swiss Army knife.

The unenlightened may wonder how often the ordinary office worker needs to gralloch a stag or extricate a Boy Scout from a horse's hoof (they have obviously never worked in a newspaper office). But consider the usefulness of the in-pocket toolshed. Consider the exquisite ingenuity of the tiny screwdriver (for repairing specs) which nestles within the corkscrew (for repairing moods). And consider the talismanic appeal of this small, heavy, smoothly finished object – like gold but more useful.

The supremacy of the Swiss knife is challenged by a host of "multitools". The austerely utilitarian Leatherman type works on the principle of two handles which unfold. This allows it to convert into a pair of pliers – an alarmingly functional advance – but otherwise it differs little from the Swiss knife, except in being heavier and heavier-duty. More glove compartment than handbag.

More briefcase than pocket, the Swiss Army Manager knife features a built-in telescopic pointer – terrific for the kind of manager who doesn't know that it is rude to point. An even more useful feature, indeed, the next stage in civilisation, would be an extra tool which automatically unjams photocopiers.

ANGUS CLARKE



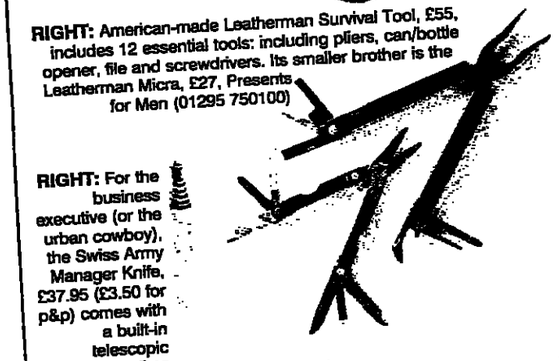
RIGHT: The Multi Tool, £13.95, has a good combination of features, from full-strength pliers and knife to saw and can opener. From Brats (0171-351 7674) and Set (0116 2674160)



RIGHT: Muji's screwdriver set, £5.95, in a clear plastic box, includes eight different screwdrivers. Simple, unfussy and very useful (0171-323 2208)



LEFT: The Tool Set Torch is a compact toolbox containing a small hammer, screwdriver with four different heads, and pliers. The useful tool for any emergency repair. Mail order from Initial Ideas (01548 831070)



RIGHT: American-made Leatherman Survival Tool, £55, includes 12 essential tools: including pliers, can/bottle opener, file and screwdrivers. Its smaller brother is the Leatherman Micra, £27, Presents for Men (01295 750100)

RIGHT: For the business executive (or the urban cowboy), the Swiss Army Manager Knife, £37.95 (£3.50 for p&p) comes with a built-in telescopic pointer as well as other office essentials such as a screwdriver, corkscrew, tweezers, nailfile and array of blades.

Mail order from Initial Ideas as above

Photographs by Des Jenson. Research Jennifer Rüggeberg

Alexandra Bastedo, the 1960s Hollywood star, keeps her pets healthy by giving them organic food. And, with 180 mouths to feed at her animal sanctuary, she should know, says **Michael Cable**

Eat your heart out, Tricky Woo. Not even Mrs Pumphrey's pampered Pekinese, in the television series *All Creatures Great And Small*, dined quite as well as the adored pooches of Alexandra Bastedo, the actress and animal lover.

Canine Care and Cuisine, the book which Ms Bastedo has just written with cook Jeannie Kemnitzer, includes recipes for such doggy delights as Rack of Pheasant, Beethoven's Spaghetti Prelude, Timmy's Tuna Timbale and — for the vegetarian mutt — Broccoli au Bouvier Des Flandres. Not that her dobermans Daisy, Roscoe and Little Dorritt are treated to such gourmet creations every day. But, like all the 180 or so assorted animals at the sanctuary which she runs at her four-acre farmstead in West Sussex, they eat only the most wholesome organic pet food.

Much of this comes from Pets Corner at the Country Gardens Garden Centre just outside Chichester where, with so many mouths to feed, the 51-year-old former film star is a regular and much-valued customer. A family business, started 30 years ago by Mark and Sandra Richmond and since joined by their son Dean, Pets Corner now has nine branches, all but one of them in Sussex.

Describing themselves as "Pet Nutrition and Accessories Centres" they are very much in tune with the Bastedo philosophy on pet diet. "Apart from that, the best thing is that all the staff are qualified nutritionists and animal care experts, very good at advising people properly," says Ms Bastedo.

Carefully scrutinising the contents labels on the various dog foods, she picks out one with a high 55 per cent meat content as being especially good and warns against the phrase "meat and animal derivatives" found on many supermarket tins. "That can mean almost anything," she says.

As well as good food, her animals are also given vitamin supplements and she has just launched her own range, Pet Nutrition Concepts, developed in partnership with Mark Ellion, her homoeopathic vet. Already available at Harrods in London, it will soon be on the shelves at Pets Corner.

She even has plans to produce her own brand of nutritionally advanced pet foods — or "haute cuisine for dogs and cats" as she calls it. Aware that some people may think she is taking things a bit far with her gourmet recipes, she points out that *Canine Care and Cuisine* (which also includes sections on holistic healing and herbal remedies) was always intended to be entertaining as well as informative. But she adds: "I do seriously believe there is a real need for tasty nutritional food for dogs, whether they are carnivore, vegetarian, vegan or macrobiotic."



Pets Corner near Chichester, West Sussex, where staff are animal care experts

Her own pets seem to provide practical proof of the benefits. Daisy is well over 13 years old — "practically *Guinness Book of Records* as far as dobermans are concerned," she says proudly.

The 1960s Hollywood star got involved in animal welfare by chance. She had always loved animals and, as a young girl, her ambition was to be a vet until, as she puts it: "I got side-tracked by Hollywood at the age of 16." At her peak in the 1960s she was jet-setting between film locations in Europe, Hollywood and South America, had apartments in Canada and Spain and was linked romantically with Warren Beatty, Omar Sharif and Michael Caine. "That all seems a long time ago," she says. "I enjoyed it at first but in the end it was all too much and I started to crack up."

It was after she married theatre director Patrick Garland in 1981 that animals began to take over her life. Now, in addition to the three dogs, she also has 24 cats, six donkeys, two Shetland ponies, two Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, four ferrets, three guinea fowl, 40 ducks, 60 hens, a turkey and a number of rabbits.

As the star of the cult TV series *The Champions*, she was once mobbed by 30,000 fans. Today she hardly rates a second glance as she loads bags of feed into the boot of her car at Pets Corner. "I'd rather have it that way," she says happily, pushing the dogs on to the back seat. "Apart from anything else, it's a relief not to have to dress up and wear make-up every time I go out."

● *Pets Corner, Country Gardens Garden Centre, Bognor Road, Merston, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6EG (01243 530606). Mon-Sat 9am-6pm. Sun 10.30am-4.30pm.*

my favourite shop

GADGETS



Non-slip tray: no messing

PLACE a large china plate on Pyramid Products' Non-Slip Tray and it appears to defy gravity. You can hold the tray at practically a 180 degree angle and the plate doesn't budge. Of course, were there food on it when you tried this experiment, it would now be all over your floor, but it makes the point.

The round tin trays, in green or blue, have a clear-jelly surface which gives them their remarkable staying power. They are made in the UK at Pyramid's factory in Mansfield, Notts.

They are dishwasher safe and last for years — useful for serving bowls of soup to bedridden patients or when eating in front of the telly.

Pyramid also makes Slipagrip Non-Slip Dashboard Mats. Cut the 11in by 8in mat to fit and merely place on the dashboard — no fixing is required. The surface has a tacky but not adhesive quality and gives a surprisingly firm grip to anything placed on it. That puts an end to sunglasses and cassettes slipping off the shelf when you turn a corner.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Non-Slip Tray, £4.99, and Slipagrip Dashboard Mat, £7.99, from Pyramid Products (016233 421277 for stockists).*

STOP!

Are you about to break the law by copying from this newspaper?

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, generally **it is unlawful to reproduce articles from newspapers without permission** even if only for internal management purposes. To make copies legally, your organisation must get a licence from the Newspaper Licensing Agency – set up to help you comply with the law quickly and easily.

You can obtain details of the licensing scheme and an application form by sending for a booklet. For your copy, simply contact the Newspaper Licensing Agency at Lonsdale Gate, Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1NL or telephone 01892 525273, fax 01892 525275, email copy@nla.co.uk.

NLA



Ceramic by Peter Ting

SHOP WATCH

■ Shopping for bathroom hardware is hardly top of the Saturday morning treats list. Instead, order a sink by phone. Ocean's spring home-accessories mail-order catalogue has a round steel basin set in a frosted glass top (£275), including essentials for installation. The 24-hour order line is 0800 132985.

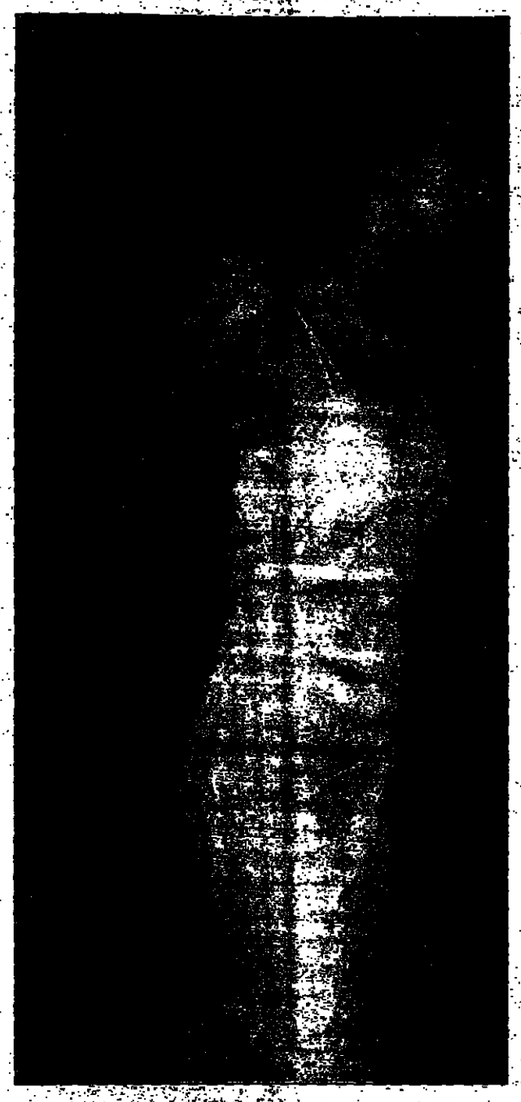
■ The phrase "lifestyle shop" is a buzzword these days, but the **Hambledon Gallery** really is one. The shop is already devoted to beautiful clothes and homeware, but now it is opening a new designer room. Look out for Eskandar's covetable linen and fluid cotton pieces, plus Paul Costello and Artwork. The shop is at 40 Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset (01258 452880).

■ Filling the gulf between off-the-shelf and custom-made curtains, **Prêt à Vivre's** home-shopping service is a real find. Curtains and blinds are made to measure from a range of fabrics, with prices that don't make you gulp. Newly launched is its nationwide measuring and installation service. Call 0171-328 4500.

■ In tandem with a revamp of its shop, the **National Portrait Gallery's** mail-order catalogue now features eyebrow-raising buys. Giant lips adorn an apron (£9.99), disembodied portrait features grace notebooks (£3.50), and hero T-shirts are stamped with moody portraits of The Who or George Best. Call 0171-306 0055.

■ UPDATE: forgotten Valentine's Day? Head to **Harvey Nichols** lingerie department for the pick of luscious underwear . . . **Mini Boden's** sporting 1998 mail-order catalogue is out now. Bypass shopping tantrums and let the kids choose bikinis and denim shorts (0181-453 1535) . . . Catch **Peter Ting's** exhibition of experimental ceramics at Thomas Goode and the Ultimate Shop Stop (0171-499 2823).

JUDITH WILSON



ABOVE: Pink silk slip, £91, worn under lace dress, £480, Elspeth Gibson, A Label Aside, 26 Flask Crescent, SW3 (0171-561 0773). Pink net tie from Accessorize, haberdashery department, stores nationwide



ABOVE: Green sequinned organza dress, £439, Emporio Armani, 191 Brompton Rd, SW3 (0171-823 8818). Cream sequinned bolero jacket, £170, Sportmax, MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-287 3434). Diamanté brooch, £98, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-409 2955). Mules, Gina, as right



ABOVE: Mint green, delicately embroidered tie-front top, £34.99, Kookaï, 123d Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-938 1427). Rose and bead wire tiara, from a selection starting at £50, Noel, Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-629 0666). Pink net, as above left. Photographs by **Anna Stevenson**

THREE OF A KIND

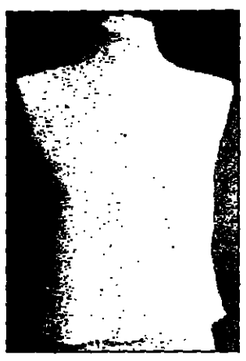
This spring's camisoles are sprayed with flowers, embroidery and lace, and made in the softest, sheerest fabrics — seductive as underwear or outerwear. *LG*



Pink and cream floral cami top, £16, Knickerbox (0171-284 1744)



Cream silk crepe bias-cut slip with flower embroidery, £32.95, Monsoon, branches nationwide (0171-313 3000)



Ivory sheer cami top with lace trim, part of a set, £20, Marks & Spencer, branches nationwide (0171-935 4422)

Make-up: **Fiona Jolly** using Clinique. Hair: **Mathew Cross** using Goldwell products. Styling: **Amandip Uppal.** Model: **Kate Orr**

Fairytale ending





"For a long time," wrote the head of the National Fairy Appreciation Society in its newsletter, "fairies have been treated in a very uncaring way. It is no surprise, therefore, that they are hesitant to show themselves when they have been so poorly portrayed."

Given the renewed interest in all things fairylike — from the film *Fairy Tale: a True Story* to exhibitions and catwalks — the little creatures will soon be poking their heads out of primroses and riding gnat-drawn carriages down a high street near you.

One of the main themes of this year's spring/summer collections is romance, and every designer is producing elf-like dresses and shifts in gossamer fabrics such as chiffon, netting and silk. These are highlighted with natural detailing — delicately embroidered flowers, spider's-web motifs, leaves and insects; raindrop-like spots, achieved with shimmering diamanté, sequins and beads; miniature bows and fine slivers of net.

On the catwalks, Chloé showed a diaphanous chiffon slip covered in sparkling diamanté; Ungaro a long white and silver-beaded spaghetti-strap dress, and a strappy white and silver cut-out lace slip; Anna Molinari a little lime net and tulle dress with matching ballet pumps, and see-through lace dress with scalloped hem.

On Valentine's Day, this look is highly appropriate. What could be more alluring than the coy fairy who is both mischievous and shy, wicked and charming, flighty but instantly lovable?

Although the colours are mostly natural and pale — reminiscent of Cicely Mary Barker's Flower Fairies — the look is sensuous and a little naughty. Dresses are low-cut, clinging or revealing; layers of fabric are see-through or scattered with embroidered motifs that cover just the essentials.

And there is no room for non-believers, who say that the fairy look is too childish for adult tastes. As J.M. Barrie said in *Peter Pan*: "Every time someone says 'I don't believe in fairies', there is a little fairy somewhere that falls down dead." If Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser and Yeats felt they were real enough to incorporate into their literary works, then today's designers are treading an honourable path.

All over the British Isles, fairies are part of everyday life. In Ireland, they are referred to as the "Gentry" or "Good People"; in Cornwall, it is believed they will keep misfortune from your door if you leave them a bowl of milk; and in the Aran Islands, milk from a newly calved cow is allowed to spill on the ground for the "little people". The National Fairy Appreciation Society, based in Coffinswell, Devon, has several hundred members; the Fairy League is an active society which campaigns to protect dingly dells from developers.

And fashion is joining in the pre-millennium fervour for all things earthy, natural and spiritual. Like other contemporary creators — architects, artists and musicians — couturiers are turning their imagination to create extraordinary pieces that are edgy yet ethereal, modern but conscious of folklore.

Their latest look is not about being away with the fairies. It is a magical addition to aid the imp inside you weave that seductive Valentine's spell.

LISA GRAINGER

ABOVE: Grey silk chiffon wrap-back dress, £1,278, Alberta Ferretti, 205-206 Sloane Street, SW1; The Fountain, 210 High Street, Guildford, Surrey (0171-243 2961). Beige net tied around the neck, haberdashery department, major stores nationwide

ABOVE RIGHT: Pale blue sheer slip, £54.99, Oasis, branches nationwide (01865 881986), worn under white camisole, £143, Elspeth Gibson, as above left. Blue butterfly hairband (worn on wrist), £7.50 a pair, Johnny Loves Rosie (0171-247 4196 for mail order). Mermaid-green sequinned kitten-heel mules, £185, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

dOn't fit in?

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

EU sinks the pint of bubbly

A pint bottle of champagne is the ideal aperitif for two – so why is it illegal, asks Rohan Daft

HULTON GETTY



Champagne is still the perfect celebration drink — so long as you don't upset Brussels and the French producers by ordering it by the pint

For Simon Berry it might have been a personal triumph: the successful culmination of a diligently fought 15-year campaign. And for Berry Bros & Rudd, his family's firm, it might have been a more than fitting contribution towards marking this year's 300th anniversary of its founding. But, alas, it wasn't.

Berry Bros is Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchant. And, as a supplier to the Royal Family since the time of George III, rather a grand one. The company has traded from its timewarp address at 3 St James's Street, London SW1, since its first day of business. Here, the startlingly sloping boarded floor might carry a 1:10 incline sign, and giant coffee scales — that in the late 17th century were, for some obscure reason, used to weigh the inhabitants of the St James's gentleman's clubs — hang from the ceiling. The computer screens that are discreetly housed in ancient-looking oak desks aside, the overriding impression is one of proud tradition.

Mr Berry, aged 40, is the marketing director of Berry Bros, and for the last 15 years has been striving to re-introduce something to this country that is quintessentially British and wholly traditional: pints of champagne.

He believes the ideal bottle size for champagne is the imperial pint. "The pint of champagne was once a part of life, like the pint of milk," he says. "It was a very British thing. There are a number of occasions when a half-bottle is not enough and a bottle is too much. The important thing is that you get four glasses of wine, which is perfect for two people before a meal or one person if you're going to drink it throughout a meal".

Pint bottles of champagne disappeared in the late 1970s when bottle manufacturers no longer found it worth their while to make them. But a ruling by the European Union now states that we are no longer allowed to have imperial pints (or, in modern parlance, 50cl bottles, which are almost exactly the same size) of champagne. We are allowed 50cl bottles of still wine — such as the claret and sauternes that Berry Bros stocks — but not fizzy wine.

Brussels, says the wine writer Hugh Johnston, "insists that for champagne you may have 75cl bottles (the standard size) or 37.5cl bottles, but not 50cl bottles. The 50cl bottles are so close to a popular tradition (the old imperial pint) that it is sheer bloody-mindedness to scrub them out. But that's the way Brussels deals with things."

But for all that, it appears that the champagne houses themselves are the culprits as much as the EU. A few years ago Mr Berry thought that he found an answer to this unhappy situation in the champagne house Veuve Clicquot. "We encouraged them to produce a 50cl bottle of champagne," he says. The idea was that he would relaunch the bottles to coincide with his firm's anniversary.

Veuve Clicquot obliged by produced 100,000 bottles. But, unfortunately, they remain in France and there is no sign of them ending up here. They are now, perhaps, Europe's first champagne lake.

The French company will only say that the EU will not recognise the bottle size. What's more, the Comité Anter-Professional des Vins de Champagne (CIVC, champagne's governing body) now claims that the bottles were never produced with the idea of selling them in any EU country, let alone Britain.



Simon Berry will continue his 15-year-battle for the traditional pint

"The reason why Veuve Clicquot decided to bottle some of the 50cl bottles was to test the market outside the EU — Switzerland and Asia," says Yves Benard, the president of the CIVC who is also an employee of the conglomerate Louis Vuitton Moët Hennesy, which owns Veuve Clicquot.

It's an odd volte-face and one that some see as having been engineered by the leading champagne houses to protect their bottle sizes and market. They are not going to upset a smooth-running apple cart for the sake of the good old British pint. The end result of this sorry tale is that Mr Berry has still to realise his ambition of re-introducing pint bottles of champagne to the United Kingdom.

He remains undaunted but, unsurprisingly, is a little downcast. "I was talking to Veuve Clicquot only last autumn, discussing how we were going to launch the bottles here," he says. "They certainly produced them with Britain in mind, because this is the big market. And I always hoped the EU rules could be got around, one way or another, or changed. We could have sold about 1,000 cases."

He is not giving up, however, and, with a bit of luck, we all might yet drink to his opponents' Waterloo.

Drink.



Jane MacQuitty

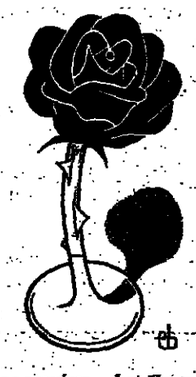
There are three red grapes that have earned a place in the first division by producing impressive, fruity wines

WINE COURSE PART 6

Controversy rages as to which red grapes qualify for first-division status. Contenders include Italy's sangiovese, best known as the grape that characterises chianti; Spain's tempranillo, the country's best red; and grenache, which is one of the principal components of châteauneuf-du-pape. None quite makes the first division.

Cabernet franc is one grape that can certainly don its first-division red strip. Because it has less colour, tannin and concentration than cabernet sauvignon, people are mostly unaware of its star quality. The claret that captains the cabernet franc team is Cheval Blanc, a cedar and redcurrant sensation, two-thirds cabernet franc to one-third merlot, that few of us will ever get to taste given that the '96 was launched at £1,000 plus.

Fortunately, the intensely scented cabernet franc that reminds me of raspberries and violets underpinned by a grassy, herbaceous quality, is planted widely in St Emilion, where it can consist of up to half the blend. From the New World, try Chile's delicious 1995 Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve, whose robust raspberry-laden fruit is good value at £7.99 from Fullers and Safeway, and the 1996 at £7.99 from Wine Rack and Bottoms Up.



Given a good site and time, Bordeaux cabernet franc acquires an especially seductive dusky-musky quality. On the other side of the Gironde River in Bordeaux, cabernet franc plays a small but essential part in the average Médoc blend, comprising at most about a quarter of the mix. Try the violet-and-cedar-stashed 1990 Château La Tour St Bonnet, a grand example of this Médoc genre (Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1, £11.65).

In the cooler Loire, the cabernet franc grape produces grassy, raspberry-dark editions which some find it hard to appreciate. So ignore the crowds and tuck into the redcurrant and raspberry-redolent 1995 Saumur Champigny Terres Chaudes from the Domaine des Roches Neuves (Majestic Wine, £9.99). Look out, too, for the many outstanding bottles from the Filliatreau family's saumur and saumur champigny vines. Yapp Bros of Mere, Wiltshire, specialises in these.

Nebbiolo, Italy's star first division performer, is a grape full of tar and roses, spice plus lots of extract, tannin and alcohol. Sadly, it confines its top performances to just one pitch in Piedmont in north-west Italy. Here, principally in the areas of Barolo and Barbaresco, it sets a cracking pace that is not always appreciated by a British audience.

The best barolos have a velvety meaty quality which slips down a treat with strongly flavoured roasted red meats. Safeway's 1999 Terre del Barolo (£8.99) is deeply rich and meaty, with lots of fruit and a tarry finish.

Zinfandel is to California, and increasingly to southern Italy, what nebbiolo is to Piedmont. The spicy, purple-black, bramble-scented zinfandel is deemed by most ampelographers to be one and the same as the Puglian primitivo. But the vines usually need to be several decades old before the grapes hit top form.

One California winemaker, Paul Draper of Ridge, keeps yield low and gives zinfandel plenty of loving care, but his bottles are hard to come by. If you don't find one, try the luscious, blackberry-laden 1995 Rocking Horse Howell Mountain Zinfandel instead (Majestic and Oddbins Fine Wine, £13.99).

It is difficult to believe the ersatz, pale jug wines from California's hot Central Valley region are made from the same grape. So far, Puglia lags behind California's star zinf but Kym Milne's 1994 Primitivo del Salento Barrique Age (Wine Rack, and Bottoms Up, £5.99) is a rustic, briary, aged bottle — the best yet from this region.

Few form studiers will agree with me that the plum and bubblegum-scented gamay grape should appear in this list. It does lag a pace or two behind the previous first division selection but in the Beaujolais region of France it shows first division form, so I think it should be included here.

What you get with the best *crus*, or village, beaujolais is an easy, soft, velvety quality with stacks of ripe, juicy fruit. Relish the tender, glugable 1995 Beaujolais Villages, Georges Duboeuf (Majestic, £4.29; Thresher group, Tesco and Sainsbury's, £4.99) or the 1995 St Amour Domaine des Billards from Loron, full of seductive, rich plum and cherry fruit (Nicolas, £9.30; Ernst Gorge, 01235 538006, £7.49).

NEXT WEEK:
The best 1996 burgundies.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

ORDER YOUR HEALING BINDER TODAY

Today, *The Times* continues with **Healing**, the definitive guide to complementary medicine. Over the next five weeks, **Healing** will combine to form a 192-page A-Z guide to the treatment of about 200 ailments, and will focus on more than 30 beneficial therapies. **Part 2** * of **Healing** is inserted in today's Times Magazine.

The series includes articles by the leading figures in the world of complementary medicine, as well as interviews with celebrities such as Clint Eastwood, Marie Helvin, Annabel Croft, Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and Boy George, who reveal their favourite alternative health regimes.

Healing will be a valuable work of reference. To ensure you keep all six parts in pristine condition, a high-quality binder is available, costing just £2.49. You can order the binder by calling our hotline on **01525 851 945** or by using the coupon below.

● If you missed Part 1 of Healing, you can order it for 85p p&p, by using the binder order form below.



THE TIMES HEALING BINDER ORDER FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss .....
Address .....
..... Postcode .....
Please send me ..... (enter qty) of Healing Part 1 @ 85p each
Please send me ..... (enter quantity) of The Times Healing binders @ £2.49 each including p&p. (Add £1 for RoI). I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) payable to: The Times FX296.
Value £ ..... No .....
Or debit my Visa/Mastercard number:
Print Name ..... Date .....
Signature ..... Exp date .....

Send coupon with remittance to: ***The Times* Healing Binder Offer, FX296, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.**

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK and Irish Republic only, subject to availability. Please write name and address on back of all cheques. Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from *The Times* or companies approved by us.

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐
Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times ☐

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1–2 copies per month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT



FAMOUSLY the preferred tipple of television's Mrs Merton and women of a certain age everywhere, the sparkling Asti Spumanté is like sweet sherry, or Babycham, not so much the drink that *time* forgot, as fashion forgot.

Where did this tidal wave of disapproval come from against what only a generation ago was *the* party popper? After all, the wine has been made from the white moscato grape in Piedmont for well over 150 years. It is produced in huge amounts, more than 75 million bottles a year, and achieved Italy's highest quality wine status (DOCG) in 1994. It is quite delicious. So how come no one I know drinks it?

It is not that sweet or dessert wines have disappeared from our table, despite a critical hammering from ill-informed "experts". And fizzy stuff has never been more in demand. Could Asti's decidedly unfizzy fate be due, then, to the growing rate of affordable pudding wines the New World is producing, or the cavas and other sparkling affairs now available? No, it is surely just that time and taste wait for no man.

The projected dreams of yesteryear, the style of Grace Kelly and a rum baba in Capri, are not today's. In their place are exotic Pacific Rim cuisines, holidays in Iceland and the new, slickly polished, vodka-based drinking habits — often the very cocktails our parents thought "old hat".

The once any time, any place, anywhere world of Asti Spumante is no longer the advertising man's easy dream. Perhaps none of us is that sweet any more.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S
CHEAT OF THE WEEK

Duck à la barbie

I HAVE been enjoying meals barbecued outdoors all winter. The secret is to use some mesquite woodchips, genuine charcoal — and a gas-type barbecue with a lid.

One of my favourite recipes is for roast, barbecued duck. It is probably best to allow two hours' cooking time with this dish — you may well find that it takes much less but a slow, even heat will ensure that the bird stays moist. The quantities for this recipe are approximate, because all depends on the size of bird.

Preparation: to feed four, take a 2-2½kg bird, open up the cavity and remove any excess fat. Then take two large potatoes that you have peeled and coarsely chopped, add to them two onions, also peeled and chopped, six peeled cloves of garlic, 150g of spicy chorizo sausage (the type that requires cooking), half a bunch of chopped, flat parsley and the zest and juice of a lemon. Mix all this well, add a generous seasoning of salt and pepper and stuff it into the bird. Sew up with string and set aside.

Cooking: on the barbecue, first lay down a sheet of tinfoil and set aside over a teacupful of woodchips. On top of this place an old roasting tin you won't mind getting charred. Then, rest the bird in the tray, close down the lid and ignite the gas. Keep the barbecue on full power for 20 minutes and then turn the heat down to a slow setting.

Check and baste the bird every 20 minutes. If you feel things are not moving fast enough, turn up the heat a little. After two hours the bird and stuffing should be cooked through and ready to eat.

To serve: hoick out the stuffing, carve the bird and hand out the plates with a glass of rustic Spanish red.

● *The author is chef at Harvey Nichols' Fifth Floor Restaurant, Knightsbridge, London.*

STAR BUYS

Laurent-Perrier Rosé, £25.99 a bottle everywhere but £22.99 at Oddbins, today only

DITCH the naff, rose-strewn tin this glorious rosé comes in and concentrate on the re-styled pink champagne within. Once upon a time, L-P Rosé was a pale, shy, scented wine. Today's £3-off edition from Oddbins is almost blood-orange red and makes a wonderful, meaty, full-throttle strawberry-licked mouthful. Celebrate Valentine's Day with this bottle of pink bubbly and you and yours will wake up happy tomorrow.



1996 Abbotts Cumulus Shiraz, Minervois, the Victoria Wine Company, £4.99

JUST THE ticket at this time of year: a big, bold, briary, inky mouthful with lots of tannic, herbaceous fruit. In short, a burly French winter red with the sort of lingering spice that will go down a treat with a bowl of steaming cassoulet or goulash. Nerida Abbott's splendid minervois, made from old plots of shiraz vines grown throughout the region, is a southern French *tour de force* for a fiver.



BEST OF THE REST:

● For a less-pricy pink champagne for Valentine's Day, try either Marks & Spencer's lemony Oudinot Rosé, down £3 to £10.99, or Majestic Wine Warehouses' raspberry-reminiscent Oeil de Perdrix, down £2 to £11.99. If a fiver is all you can afford, Oddbins has knocked 50p off the fresh, red-fruit-scented Seppelt's Great Western Rosé, an Australian snip at £4.99.

هكذا من الاصل

The Times Cook

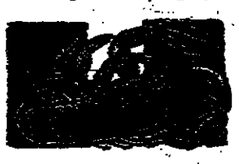
Many of the finest dishes served in Parisian restaurants embrace French bourgeois home cooking at its best



Frances Bissell

While home cooking seems increasingly to resemble restaurant cooking, much of the food you will find in Parisian restaurants resembles the best of bourgeois home cooking. Blanquette of veal, saddle of lamb with watercress salad and lentil soup with smoked bacon are some of the dishes cooked by Eric Lecerf at the restaurant in the Astor, near the Champs-Elysées. At the suggestion of Antoine Hernandez, the restaurant director, my husband Tom and I had the *jarret de veau braisé-rôti*, shin of veal on the bone, served in its copper pot, with caramelised vegetables.

Guy Martin, the Savoyard chef-patron at Le Grand Véfour in the Palais Royal, serves foie gras, caviare and lobster, as you would expect in this 18th-century jewel of Paris restaurants. But he also serves a splendid cottage pie of



oxtail, the *parmentier de queue de boeuf with truffles*, which is exquisite. One of his specialities is foie gras encased in ravioli, where it cooks to a suave hot mouthful.

There is also an abundance of southern, notably Mediterranean and Iberian flavours on many Parisian menus. Chorizo, *pata negra* cured ham, salt cod and pimentos are to be found on both Lecerf's and Martins's menus. On the other hand, Ghislaine Arrabian at Ledoyen remains close to her Flemish roots, with a *waterzooi* of turbot and *cuisine à la bière*. Much use, too, is made of infused oils, from pineapple, sage and pimento to vanilla. I have experimented along similar lines today with the brill flavoured with vanilla sauce.

Chocolate is increasingly popular in Paris and chocoholics should direct their steps towards Ladurée at 75 Avenues des Champs-Elysées. At last, there is a reason to go to the Champs-Elysées. Here the gifted young chef-pâtissier, Pierre Hermé, combines a restaurant and *salon de thé*, serving 365 days a year from 8am to 1am. Hermé's creations are exquisite: wonderful chocolate tarts, *viennoiseries* and, above all, his *macarons*, which come in several flavours — pistachio, praline, orange, lemon, coffee and, of course, chocolate. As with all good chocolatiers, you are encouraged to buy to take home, or you can visit one of the food halls, such as the excellent La Grande Epicerie in the Bon Marché department store at the corner of rue de Sèvres and rue de Bac. There you can buy the Michel Cluizel range for Fr13 a bar, which is indeed a bargain. I use it in my version of the chocolate macaroons.

Brill with vanilla oil and caramelised chicory
Serves 2

- 1 vanilla pod
- 100ml groundnut, sunflower or virgin sesame oil
- 1 brill, filleted and skinned
- Salt
- Pepper
- 3 or 4 heads of chicory, trimmed
- 50g butter
- 1 lime

Split the vanilla pod and scrape the seeds into a heat-proof jug or bowl. Boil the oil and pour it over the seeds. You can leave to infuse for half an hour or so. Or you can make up a bottle of vanilla oil, infusing two pods and their seeds in a 75cl bottle of oil. If you choose sesame oil, it should be the clear, cold-pressed oil, not the brown oil from roasted sesame seeds, used in oriental cooking, which has a very low smoke point.

Season the fish on both sides with a little salt and pepper. Put to one side. Slice up the chicory, having removed the core.

Heat the butter in a heavy lidded saucepan, and in it sweat the chicory. Grate on the lime zest, and cook until the chicory is translucent and golden brown. Add lime juice to taste.

Brush the cold vanilla oil over the fish fillets, and heat a grill or well-seasoned frying pan. Cook the fish until done to your liking, and serve on a bed of chicory, with a little more oil, if you wish, and another dash of lime juice. Flat-leaf parsley and lime, sliced or cut into wedges, can be served as garnish.

Sole, turbot, plaice, red mullet or other delicate fish fillets can replace the brill, as can slices from a monkfish tail.

Rack of lamb with a mustard crust
Serves 2

Not many roasts are suitable for two people, but best end of lamb, with six or seven small cutlets, is ideal and is one of my favourite dishes for Sunday lunch.

- 1 best end of lamb, chine bone removed
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1tbsp grain mustard
- 1tbsp chopped fresh tarragon
- Salt, pepper
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 2tbsp fresh breadcrumbs, mixed with 1tbsp ground almonds
- 1tbsp extra virgin olive oil

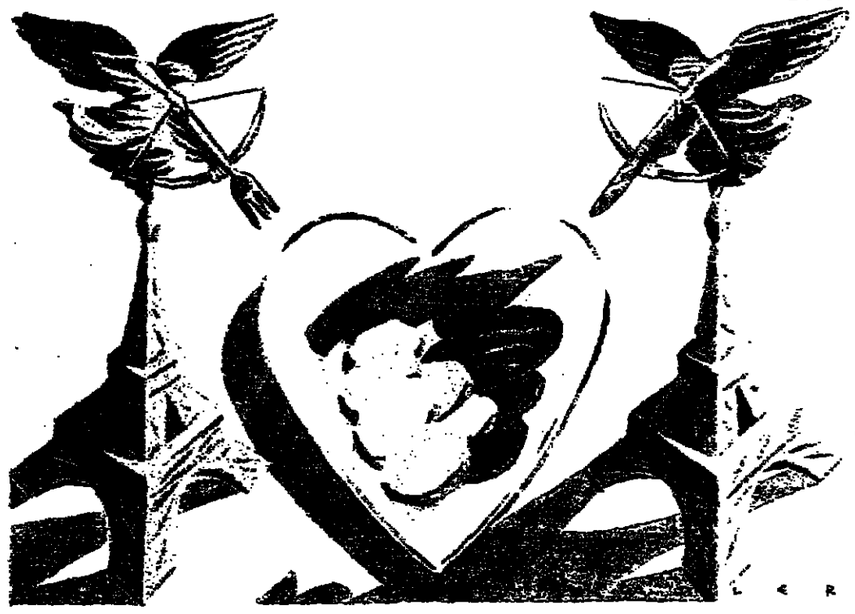
If your butcher has not already done so, trim the ribs right down to the thick meaty fillet and remove the outer layer of fat. This is called a French, or larder, trim. When carved, it will give an "eye" of meat on each well-trimmed bone and very little fat.

Mix the rest of the ingredients, except the breadcrumbs and almonds, and spread over the meat. Leave it to marinate overnight, or cook immediately, as you prefer.

Make sure the meat is at room temperature when you cook it. Preheat the oven to 200C, gas mark 6, and roast for about 20 minutes. After ten minutes, coat the fat part of the meat with the crumb mixture and press in lightly. Return to the oven. When done, keep warm for five minutes before carving.

This very classic lamb dish deserves a classic accompaniment, such as thinly-sliced potatoes laid in a buttered dish with a little cream or stock, light seasoning, and baked to a golden gratin.

ALAN ADLER



Chocolate macaroons
Makes 12

- 200g dark chocolate, at least 70 per cent cocoa solid
- 2 free-range egg whites
- 150g fresh shelled almonds, unblanched
- 150g granulated sugar
- 150ml double cream

Break half the chocolate into small pieces and melt it gently in a bowl, set over hot water. Whisk the egg whites until firm and stiff.

In a blender or food processor, blend the almonds and sugar until the almonds are finely ground but not pasty. Whisk this mixture into the egg whites, and then add the melted chocolate, incorporating the whole into a smooth light mass.

Spoon 24 heaps into a greased and lined baking sheet, flattening into 5cm rounds, and leaving a space of a centimetre or two between each. Bake in a low oven, pre-heated to 135C, gas mark 1, for about an hour. The macaroons will become firm rather than colour.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool for a minute or two before transferring them to wire racks to cool completely.

While these are baking, you can make the ganache filling. Scald the cream and pour it over the remaining chocolate, broken into small pieces. Stir until melted, and then beat until the mixture lightens and thickens. Chill until required.

To make the macaroons, sandwich two together with the chocolate filling. They will keep for two to three days in an air-tight box.

Madeleines
Makes 24

- 100g caster sugar
- 100g self-raising flour
- Pinch of salt, about half a coffeespoon
- 2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 130g unsalted butter, melted

Pre-heat the oven to 220C, gas mark 8. Butter and flour madeleine moulds or bun tins.

Sift together the dry ingredients.



Beat in the eggs and then mix in the melted butter. Pour the batter (and the mixture really is quite liquid) into the prepared moulds, and bake in the top half of the oven for five to seven minutes. Remove from the oven once the madeleines are golden, well risen and with the characteristic "bump" in the middle. The recipe multiplies well, certainly by up to ten: I learnt the recipe using a kilo of flour.

You can add, with the eggs, lemon zest or vanilla seeds. I have also used a little orange-flower water and grated orange zest. Alternatively, you can use vanilla sugar. Madeleines are also delicious when freshly baked and served still warm with, for example, a vanilla ice-cream and a fruit sauce as a pudding.

● *From February 16-22, Frances Bissell will be at The Mark Hotel, Madison & 77th, New York, where she will be preparing food for an authentic English tea. Phone 001 212 744 4300 for reservations.*

NEXT WEEK:
The Times Cook in Aragon

THE PERFECT CROQUE MONSIEUR

More than just a cheese sandwich

YOU watch the world go by at a table in a Parisian café. You have just ordered a croque monsieur. Sadly, this long-time favourite Parisian bar snack is often a travesty of the real thing.

✓ FOR EACH person, you need two slices of buttered bread, crusts removed, a slice of cheese and a slice of ham. Use the best ingredients you can find. Choose real ham, not pressed shoulder, good cheese and use bread with some substance.

✓ METHOD. For each croque, place the ham and cheese between the slices of bread, trimmed to fit. Grill or fry on both sides, until the bread is crisp and brown and the cheese is melting. Serve immediately.

✓ ALTERNATIVES. A fried egg on top turns this into a croque madame. Another version involves spreading the filled sandwich with a thick, cheese-flavoured béchamel before baking in the oven. This makes a tasty supper or lunch. It can be served with drinks.

NEXT WEEK:
The perfect pancake

CONSUMING INTERESTS: TARAMASALATA

Bacon for Nobacon

The rebel veggie once skinned his own rabbits, says **Joe Warwick**

HOME COOKING

Pop star, anarchist, vegetarian and scourge of new Labour on account of pouring a bucket of iced water over John Prescott at the Brits Awards, Danbert Nobacon (real name Nigel Hunter) was in his youth "just a normal sort of lad" says his mother, Shirley Hunter.

The man who with a couple of pints of H_2O made the front pages of every paper this week and claimed it was a metaphor "for the underdog pissing on the steps of Downing Street" was not a controversial youth, and turned his nose up at vegetables, even though he now is a strict vegetarian.

Like most young men he was interested in sport, in particular football and cricket. He was, as an enthusiastic member of the scout movement, more inclined to help old ladies across the street than make the Deputy Prime Minister's wife cry. At school he was well behaved and according to Mrs Hunter "He had good friends and a normal childhood. He always did his homework. I think I instilled that in him. All three of my boys worked really hard. He took his exams a year early, both his O-levels and A-levels."

When it came to food, young Danbert was not a fussy eater: "He'd eat anything," says Mrs Hunter. "He loved baked beans and I remember getting him chunky chicken. I used to bake a lot and I remember making him sausage and onion pie. He liked normal fish and chips. He had a sweet tooth and he liked homemade cakes and flapjacks."

In those days his favourite meal was more Bernard Matthews than sensitive vegetarian. "Turkey he loved," confesses Mrs Hunter. And what food did Danbert despise? "He didn't really like vegetables," she laughs, "and he hated sprouts — I think a lot of children are like that." For breakfast the anarchist who changed his name to Nobacon did enjoy the occasional fry-up: "He liked bacon, fried bread and all that," says his mother.

All that changed when, in his first year at Leeds University, he became a vegetarian:



Nobacon in his favourite leather miniskirt

"It was a bit difficult," his mother says. "When he came home and went out for a meal anywhere, they didn't cater much for vegetarians in those days and I found it difficult cooking when he came home — I'm more into it now."

At one point when he was about 19 he flirted with the more extreme vegan diet. Shirley was worried: "It was just too much, he was getting really thin — his diet was all wrong. He went to a homeopath who told him to change what he ate. It's hard when you are touring around to follow a strict diet."

Her favourite story about her son dates back to more innocent days, when things were less complicated and Danbert was still a carnivore. "When he was a scout they had to do this day's expedition on the moors. They had to pretend that they were like cavemen living off the land. They could take some raw food with them — like fish. A friend of ours got him a wild rabbit. It had its fur on and everything.

"He decided that he was going to cook this rabbit. He wrapped it in newspaper and kept it in his bedroom. I daren't go into his room. The day afterwards, they had to cook it and eat it. So he went ahead and prepared it and cooked it over a fire. I think it would turn his stomach now if he thought about it."

Mrs Hunter refuses to be shocked by anything her son does. When asked about his clothing, which often includes a black miniskirt, she says: "I've seen him in a skirt and that doesn't shock me. If you've had to wear a school uniform until you are 18 you must get a bit sick of it." She thinks the locals around Burnley who know Danbert ("People just know him as Nigel") find the Prescott incident quite amusing.

"We brought him up to stand on his own two feet and to make his own decisions. You can't have boys tied to their mother's apron strings."

BARRY GREENWOOD



An early head rush: Nigel Hunter — aka pop star Nobacon — in his younger days

Taramasalata



Somerfield Greek-Style Taramasalata, *85p for 170g.*
Claims: "Delicious with warm pitta bread or as a dip." 50.8 per cent fat, of which 3.9 per cent is saturates. 0.8g sodium per 100.
Verdict: This one specifies that it is made with marinated cod roe, but does not tell what it has been marinated in. I would not like to inquire. Another thick and turgid textured offering. ★

Tesco Fresh Mediterranean-Style Taramasalata Dip, *85p for 170g.*
Claims: At least 10 per cent fish. Coloured red with beetroot red.
Verdict: The serving suggestion on the tub suggests it could do with more lemon and some parsley. Who am I to argue? ★

Safeway Taramosalata, *85p for 170g.*
Claims: "Greek-style starter made with cod's roe." 45.3 per cent fat, of which 3.2 per cent is saturates. 0.7g sodium per 100g.
Verdict: Runny, even when well chilled. Tastes of sour onions. Disagreeable, indeed repulsive. **No star**

Asda Taramasalata, *79p for 100g.*
Claims: "Minimum 10 per cent fish." 50.8 per cent fat (saturates 3.9 per cent).
Verdict: Made with marinated cod roe and coloured with betanin. Very wet, with a sharp flavour in which onion and lemons, rather than cod roe, take the lead. ★

Harrods Food Halls Traiteur Taramosalata, *95p per 100g (our 368g pack was priced £3.50).*
Claims: No ingredient list or nutritional information provided.
Verdict: The pinkest of all these concoctions, and should be blushing at its extravagant and unjustifiable price. The flummery effect is not pleasing and the product has only the merest suggestion of fishiness, it. Tasted blind, this could be mistaken for mayonnaise. ★

Waitrose Taramosalata Supreme, *£1.35 for 170g.*
Claims: "Traditional Greek hors d'oeuvre made with high cod roe content." Uses both smoked and plain cod roe. Minimum 24 per cent fish. 40.7 per cent fat.
Verdict: At last, a British taramasalata that can be taken seriously. Oatmeal colour, appetising smoky scent and a seductive flavour. No added colour or stabiliser, and twice the amount of fish that any of the others can offer. So that's how it is done. This is the only one I finished, or would bother to buy again. ★★★★

Sainsbury's Fresh Reduced Fat Taramasalata, *85p for 170g.*
Claims: "Greek-style hors d'oeuvre made with marinated cod roe. 30 per cent less fat." Fat content remains 32.5 per cent, of which 2.4g per 100 is saturates.
Verdict: The nasty plastic tab for opening the tub cut my thumb. The fat reduction is achieved by bulking with modified corn starch, using xanthan gum as stabiliser. This was not the worst of the bunch, though there was more lemon than cod roe in its flavour. ★

Morrisons Taramosalata, *69p for 170g.*
Claims: "A Greek-style dip made with cod roe, lemon juice and onion." 50.8g fat. "Serve chilled as a snack or starter with pitta bread or a selection of fresh vegetables." No breakdown for saturates or sodium.
Verdict: Thick, turgid texture, and the customary pink (achieved with colour E162). Very mild and unexciting flavour. Why waste calories consuming fat in this form? ★

St Michael Taramosalata, *£1.25 for 10oz (283g).*
Claims: "Greek-style starter made with cod roe." "Minimum 12 per cent fish." 50.9g fat per 100 (saturates 3.5), sodium 0.9g. Natural colour E162.
Verdict: A paler shade of pink, at least, and though the mix is rather damp it is reasonably pungent and sharp-flavoured without being unpleasant. ★★

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

WINE BUYS

هكذا من الاصل

The dishes don't like it, and have taken to expressing their disapproval by committing suicide in the small hours

We're having a smashing time

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

Now, my friend Katie's theory is that my present high levels of domestic distress can be laid at the door of a poltergeist. She has tried this one on me before, when I rang her up one night in a fine state of nerves, complaining of a day of grievous minor injuries and setbacks. The crowning moment had come at suppertime, when I opened the cupboard to take out some pepper and found myself the subject of an assault by a small, but extremely heavy tin of Numberelli. It shot, unprovoked, off the top shelf, smacked me sharply on the right temple, and then ricocheted on to the work surface, shattering in the process a little blue-and-white plate of which I was particularly fond, in a pattern of pomegranates which is no longer stocked by Peter Jones, as I found out when I tried to replace it.

"Oh, do give over," I said at the time. "It was an accident, that's all. The perfect end to an outstandingly horrible day. These things happen all on their own, without the aid of supernatural intervention." Now, however, I find I am beginning to wonder . . .

We dug in, Katie and I, at the Soho Pizzeria, just round the corner from her office, ordered a bottle of red wine ("Would you like to taste the wine, ladies?" said the waitress. "Not if it is the same as last time," said Katie, briskly. "I think you'd better just pour it out . . .") and settled down to discuss the shortcomings of our Lovely Homes, rather as our grandmothers might have met to exchange notes on the Servant Problem.

Katie has just acquired a new flat and, with it, an infestation of builders — quite as troublesome as rats, and you can't even call Rentokil to come and flush them out. They have made themselves so very much at home in her pretty little maisonette that it seems unlikely that they will ever leave. Her Rose Pouchong tea bags cower at the back of the larder, elbowed aside by several gross of PG Tips. Every room (even the loo) features a half-eaten packet of chocolate Hob Nobs (the only biscuits they will countenance. Digestives were politely rejected), and, next to it, one of Katie's flower-strewn Pompadour-pattern Limoges saucers, containing a wormy collection of hand-rolled Old Holborn dog-ends.

Most alarming of all, they have stopped addressing her as "Missus" — as in, "There's a two-foot repeat on that wallpaper. That's [sharp intake of breath] eight rolls you're looking at for this room, missus" — and started calling her, very matily, by her first name. She, in turn, has developed a fine grasp of builders' vocabulary and throughout lunch kept barking things like, "So, you find you get hot water at mains pressure with a combi-boiler, do you?"

Ha! Well, hot water at any pressure would be a great improvement on our present situation. For a week now Alexander and I have been washing the bits of ourselves that we can bear to expose (no heating either), in miserable kettlesful of water. It would be hard to say which of us is sicker of hearing me exclaim, "This is so like when mummy was a little girl." The boilerman, meanwhile, has become a permanent feature of our household. Day after day he takes up his position on the draining board, while I retreat upstairs to bed (the only warm place in the house). Every so often he appears at the foot of the stairs (his demeanour grows daily more lugubrious) to announce that some other piece of the appliance's delicate internal mechanism has failed. Both of us wish that he was anywhere but here. I think we are beginning to feel like the parties in some terrible, poisonous marriage — desperate to be rid of each other, but obliged to stay together for the sake of the boiler.

The general air of uncomfortable disorder is increased by the fact that the dishes, which can't go on the draining board because that is where the boilerman sits, are now distributed over a variety of horizontal surfaces. They don't like it, and have taken to expressing their disapproval by committing suicide in the small hours. A terrible crash. I wake with a start and bounce downstairs, torch in hand, expecting to find a smashed window pane and a hairy arm interfering with the window lock. But nothing so alarming. Just, at my feet, a sad little pile of shards that was once my best pink-flowered pie dish . . .

Alexander, who has not yet developed an emotional attachment to crockery, is inclined to ignore all this (though he did show a flicker of interest when, as we took a tight corner round the bacon counter at Sainsbury's, the wheel fell off the trolley. It gave a lurch like the *Titanic* and capsized, spilling Mr Men fairycakes and Thomas the Tank Engine pasta shapes all over the place. "You see!" said Katie, when I told her).

Of far more concern to Alexander at the moment is the means by which the Tooth Fairy gathers her intelligence. He has decided that one of his bottom teeth is wobbly and is worried in case she isn't informed. "But how will she *know*?" he asks. "She will be informed by the south London regional tooth fairy network," I say. He gives me a suspicious look. "And what if a lot of other children's teeth all fall out at the same time? She won't be able to carry all the pound coins." "Relief fairies," I say blandly. "will be drafted in from other regions as required. Night night."

From our rooms, an uneasy silence rises. It is the sound of Alexander considering that the tooth fairy might not be real, and me (ears straining for the smashing of china) considering that the poltergeist just might be.

The best place to find love in the Nineties

THE DAYS of polite introductions are over. What with working long hours and commuting, many people find it difficult to make contact with suitable partners, even in big cities. Village dance halls are thin on the ground for twenty and thirtysomethings and the tea dance occupies a very slender listings column in most magazines. In the spirit of research we sent out six hopeful men and women to six wildly contrasting venues in an effort to find a date in time for Valentine's Day. Some had more success than others . . .

ANDRE CAMARA



Kathryn gets the measure of her man

AT THE TAILORS Kathryn Knight

It is hard *not* to flirt when you are wrapping a tape measure around a man's inside leg. As quests to find love go, working for an afternoon in a gentleman's tailors had seemed rather drastic, but I was soon flexing my chalk in anticipation as one handsome cove after another ventured into Ozwald Boateng's smart London store.

Could I find love among the silk shirts? At first glance the odds were on my side, with a ratio of about seven male customers to one woman (me). But was a box of dress pins and a winning smile enough to do the trick?

Julia Wright, store manageress, confided that she had been the subject of countless flirtations, with a noticeable increase in male visitors to the store since she started there a few months ago. One useful aspect of the business is that when you are sticking pins around a man's delicate parts, you have him rather more at your disposal than you would in a wine bar.

"I bet this isn't the only time you have women falling at your feet," I said as I grappled with the trouser hem of a City banker who had the misfortune to be my first client. Strangely, he seemed to find this proximity with a grinning stranger rather disconcerting. However, Ken Seki, a music executive from Tokyo, was more like it. "Have you come to London just to visit us?" I purred, adjusting the cuffs of his navy blue ready-to-wear suit. He had not, but would be doing so from now on, he twinkled. By the end of the afternoon, I had two business cards and a bagful of one-liners to remember.

Most importantly, with bespoke suits starting at £1,600, you know you are flirting with quality material.



David Bowker's child was the passport to meeting women. "They see me as a sensitive, caring male because I am out with a baby"

ANDRE CAMARA

OUT WITH A BABY David Bowker

When I became a father, I was filled with deep despair. But I quickly discovered that the gods had thrown me a few crumbs of consolation in exchange for ruining my life. Whenever I took my young son to the supermarket, women would stop me to heap praise on the baby and his daddy. At first I thought fatherhood had enhanced my virility, enabling women to smell my hormones at 20 paces. But without the baby? Nothing. Not even a smile from the woman in the Disney Store, where staff who fail to smile at customers face a prison sentence.

Then I took the baby to the park, and a pretty young mother accosted me to point out that her son was wearing the same Thomas the Tank Engine hat as my son and we started talking about how servile Thomas was and how nice it would be if Thomas and the other trains launched a coup and overthrew the Fat Controller.

Pretty soon I realised that women saw me as the kind of sensitive, caring male promoted in films like *Three Men and a Baby* just because I had taken my infant son for a walk. So how effective is this baby accessory? The answer has to be "fairly". Sometimes women in shops smile and give me free books or toys for my son, perhaps suspecting that his mother died in childbirth, or that we are divorced and I only get to see him one afternoon a week.

Other times women cross the road to admire us and utter profundities like "Well, look at him! And look at you!" One favourite excursion involves walking miles out of my way to an off-licence staffed by two sexy Australian women who always flatter me through my son. ("Isn't he gorgeous? Isn't he like you? Hasn't he got lovely eyes? Aren't they like yours?") When a man has not slept or exercised for months and generally feels like a bag of laundry, this is balm to his soul. One friend even had a lady write her phone number on his daughter's hand.

But a baby's power will not last for ever. Once your child is two, and his idea of fun is running up to smaller kids and pushing them over, their mothers will cease to adore you. The trick is to make the most of your baby while it is young. It helps, of course, if the baby is attractive — that is one hell of an advertisement for a man's gene-pool. So if your own baby is ugly, borrow someone else's.

IN MAYFAIR Katherine Bergen

My friend Kathryn and I perched on the stools in the Met Bar of Mayfair's Metropolitan Hotel and realised we were the only people, including the staff, who were not dressed in black. Finding a man to flirt with here, we decided, would be as much a matter of designer labels as showing a well-turned ankle. The clientele were urban professionals and looked as if they were born sipping a cocktail.

Two men sidled over and, without a shuffle of self-consciousness, sat down and struck up conversation. Mark Solomans, a City banker, and James Holland, a producer with an American television company, were single, in their early thirties and knew each other from university. They were meeting friends later for dinner and had come here for a drink.

They seemed well off and looked reasonably attractive. However, this was a polite rather than an intense conversation, although it was suggested that we all meet later. Numbers were exchanged but no promises made. (Score: 6 out of 10: verdict: nice young men.)

Flushed with success, we moved to the red leather banquettes around the walls. Within the space of a few hair flicks, two martinis were sent over from the bar, "with compliments". They were from two older, rather portly businessmen with whom we had exchanged glances earlier.

We talked to them as long as it took to drink the martinis — all of five minutes. (Score: 10 out of 10 for fast work, but 3 out of 10 for result; verdict: not for us.)

Our last encounter could hardly have been more comical, and we ended up with a prolonged bout of hiccups because we had been stifling our laughter too long. Paulo and Marco had sashayed past earlier and drawn our gaze in beautifully cut suits (black, of course).

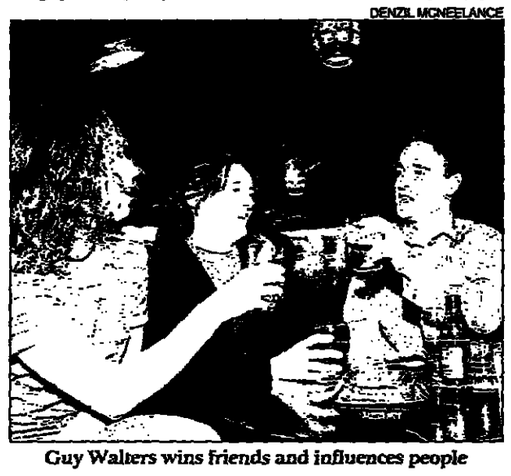
They were fashion buyers from Milan, but unfortunately their grasp of English was not as sharp as their dress sense. So confused was their conversation that they might have been telling us they were gondoliers. They were, however, the only ones to point out that one of us was wearing a wedding ring. (Score: 2 out of 10 because of inability to get beyond names; verdict: Pythonesque.)

ROBIN MAYES



Kiss me Kate: in the Met Bar at the Metropolitan

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Guy Walters wins friends and influences people

IN THE PUB Guy Walters

The Swan in Stockwell, South London, is a good old-fashioned pulling joint, where availability is more important than good looks and where the desperate go in search of the same. It's not classy but you can guarantee that most punters are single, and those that aren't are single until midday tomorrow. For research purposes, it is ideal.

I went to there with friends after a few drinks. The first thing that hit me was an awareness of quantity. There were lots of girls, and upstairs, lots more. Unsurprisingly, there were lots of blokes, too: a lot of them of them buying pints. Ask for a vodka and tonic and you feel as though you're in a Bateman cartoon.

So, what to do? How was I to introduce myself to a huddle of girls, hold a conversation above the boom of Chumbawamba, make them laugh, and convince one of them that it would be a really good idea for her to, well you know, become my new best friend?

I quaked. I have friends who are experts at this (one of them was with me but I never saw him again that evening) but I'm certainly not. The problem is that I don't know the rules. Am I supposed to lie? Harass? Cajole? Flatter? Tease? Buy lots of drinks? Crack jokes? Dance? Or have another pint and just look? I had a Carlsberg.

I immediately had another, by which time I suddenly got the point. Of course! Everybody's drunk! Smacking my palm to my forehead in this moment of clarity, I had a quick whisky, and began to feel suitably courageous. I didn't have to talk, I just had to mumble some half-charming drivel to anyone who looked as if they wouldn't steal stuff from my flat.

After a lot of loitering, and adopting the cheetah's tactic of going for the stragglers, I ended up talking to Rachel, Becky and Clare — nice girls who came here often. "Um, er, what do you all do then?" I asked. They were all nannies. I felt I had gatecrashed some sort of convention.

"Er . . . good fun is it, nannying?" "Issallright." "So what are the kids like then?" "All right." "How long have you all been doing it?" "Few months." "Year." "Nearly a year." "Really?" "Really."

This was going badly. This wasn't schmooze, charm or seduction, this was just pumping them for information that I wasn't interested in. A change of tack was required, so I reverted to the classic. "What would you like to drink?" They had only just bought drinks. Here was my exit: "I'll just and go and get one for myself then."

IN THE LINGERIE SHOP Rohan Daft

Men — and certainly Englishmen — are funny about lingerie. I was hitting it off with Sarah, from Chertsey, who was up to town for the day. Sarah (blonde and 24) was dizzily tripping up and down the rails at Agent Provocateur like a five-year-old in a sweet shop.

"Can I help you?" I said. Not the most leading line I have ever uttered, but it was how I had been instructed to introduce myself.

For one day last week I went where no man had been before: I became Agent Provocateur's first male assistant. Agent Provocateur is undoubtedly London's smartest and most exotic lingerie shop. The walls drip with the tiniest G-strings, purple quarter-cup leopard-print bras, stockings of every hue, and the sheerest gossamer negligées. It is here that Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss buy their smalls. What better place to meet members of the opposite sex?

"You'd look good in this." I said to Sarah, flourishing a red satin corset. She smiled. Encouraged, I pressed on. "Why don't you slip it on," I said. Another smile, and a titter, too. Very good. But then she said, casually but firmly, that she had a husband. I took defeat well, and came clean. And to her credit, and for the purposes of this article, she agreed to have her picture taken in said corset.

But, as I said, Englishmen can be funny about lingerie, and two hours later the husband phoned the shop to say there was no way that a picture of his wife in a corset was going to appear anywhere.

But girls are more relaxed about lingerie than men. Not one — and they came in all shapes and sizes and ages — seemed to mind me serving. For my part it felt liberating being able to ask a girl outright what size her breasts were.

Caroline, a model, wanted a black spot tulle bra. By now something of an expert, I guessed her size correctly to be a 32B. She made her way to the changing rooms. "Would you like my honest opinion," I said. "Er, no thanks," she replied. I summoned up the spirit of Terry Thomas, waved a black G-string at her and said: "now . . . I can see you in this". "In your dreams, mate," she said.

Given one more day and I reckon I could crack the big time.

ANDRE CAMARA



Rohan Daft gets familiar with a lingerie customer

RICHARD POHLE



Lesley Downer spices up her life at Bar Salsa!

LEARNING SALSA Lesley Downer

There's nothing like a bit of Latin rhythm to set a man's pulse racing; at least so I thought as I set off with my friend Sian for Bar Salsa! in London's West End. The proper uniform, I suspected, was Wonderbra, short skirt and high heels. But I decided to go for the modest look. Sian, blonde and busty, should be sexy enough for both of us.

Salsa, which comes from Brazil, involves a basic step which, I had been told was easy to master, with plenty of groin-to-groin dancing with a variety of partners — perfect for loosening up the reserved English male. At least, that was the theory.

At 7.30pm Bar Salsa! was like a Wild West saloon, with groups of people standing around, eyeing each other and sipping beer. The evening started with a class, before the dancing started. Having practised the basic steps, it was time to grab a partner.

Brett, tall, blond and chunky, happened to be next to me. "Mea, put your hand around the lady's waist," commanded the teacher. Keeping a safe distance, Brett put his hand in the small of my back. He had very large feet which threatened serious injury to mine at every step.

I decided to try my chat-up techniques. "Nice shirt," I ventured with my best smile. "What do you do?" But at that moment the music stopped and he fled back to his mates, looking distinctly relieved.

Sian was dancing with a young man who was undulating seductively. But sadly he turned out to be with his boyfriend. Sian, too, fled.

I went to buy a drink, and felt a bit like Shirley Valentine on a Mediterranean beach, with Lotharios swarming all round me.

"Remember me?" asked a moustachioed character in a red shirt. I had never met him in my life and didn't want to now. A couple of Italians in identical suits offered to dance with me, one after the other. "We do everything together," they said.

Then I noticed a quiet-looking man in a leather jacket and check shirt. The next thing I knew he was paying for my drink. His name was Dmitri and he came from Russia. It seemed a safer bet.

He turned out to be a whiz on the dance floor, with plenty of dramatic Cossack-style struts and turns in the middle of his salsa, while I was wondering desperately where to put my feet. Not surprisingly after a couple of dances he disappeared back into the throng — though he suggested another rendezvous at Bar Salsa! next week. I said I would think about it.

هكذا من الأصل

Valentines

BRITISH MEAT
The Recipe FOR Love
FOR YOUR FREE RECIPE BOOK CALL 01908 23 25 22
BRITISH MEAT

A

A. Stick with me kid and you will shop at M&S - and wear diamonds if you really want. All my love R.

ABC A beautiful curls you gave me. Now I have two Angels!

ABIGAIL - mistress and ruler of the west. All hail from the cohorts of devoted slaves

AB - Looking forward to forty. Love DB

A Brown-eyed girl with more than a fan, keeps me smiling man !!!

ACE In Wood-Green, ACE in India, Count on this ABaCus, your V(alen)tine.xx

ACROSS 50 years, your love and caring without disparing kept me alive. Now in our Autumn I'll survive and so remain your devoted Valentine

ADAKU sweetheart just to say I love you more each day, Richard

ADD FLORIN, occasionally seen, often missed, frequent thoughts, romantically viewed, tenderly touched, sweetly kissed. Empover loves his most precious catch.

ADORABLE Diana - Love you tweet!

AD Puff snowflake and red dragon gang, love you ten pounds 'tis

ADRIAN Ek geniet rerig jou geselskap en hopelik lag ons nog lekker saam. Liefies Kate

A1 for-mex gives petkin a buzz he most certainly does.

ALAMEIN AVENUE resident is my fine companion. Love from your man in love.

ALICIA my cyber pal, be my valentine forever. Your smile blows the clouds away. Love you forever and ever - John

ALISON After al long time together, the words "I love you" become more infrequent and taken for granted. I love you, truly. Danny.

ALISON, 22 years without you was 23 years too long. I'm glad you're staying forever. !!!

ALL ENGLAND has to know how much I love my boy, although he is sometimes overseas my Micheal means everything to me

ALL I am prepared to say is 'I might do' - Do Ho xxx

ALL of my life I thank the good Lord that I found you and dream your arms of golden brown will always surround me.

AMANDA BICKNELL London, Paris, who knows where our love will take us next; Henley? Steve

AMANDA Jane you luscious goddess. I worship the beauty of love ... and always will. The Fridge Poet.

AMANDA You are my English Rose, beautiful with a heavenly scent, whenever you are close to me... William XXX

AMANDA my Dearest I hope this is the first of many Valentine's together. I Love You. Ben xx.

AMY, Squidgy baby, keep cool but not too much Lots of love

ANDREW Come 'We are going to be forever you and me' Huge hugs and passionate kisses from your Scottish connection.

ANDREW Happy Valentines Day, sorry we're not together. All my love, Kirsten.

ANDREA Stunning super model, psyche soul mate, and special lady, I love you. "Randysocks"

ANDREA VOICE Be our Valentine - All our love Tinky Winky and Po.

ANDY: Near or far "I" always love you. From "I" of Leicester

ANGEL: covalent or ionic, our bonding is strong; by your side, in your brilliance is where I belong. Heapfuls of love from Head Honcho

ANGELA, Kim, Claudia, Samantha, you are more than I could ask for. Love from Bucharest.

ANGEL: You will always be my Christmas Cracker in that magic T-Shirt!

ANGEL So far and yet so close. So much in love, Dimples.

ANGIE My millennium bombshell we will be together for 2000 and forever. Len B

ANNA CHAPPELL Distance means nothing. Love you and miss you. James XXX

ANNA What fun what love tell F to keep the keys. Thomas

ANNA You deserve the best. Love from your Bit of northern rough. Frank xxx

ANNIE. My Darling. Our love is forever and complete. Come to me. Tarry not too long, it's loss would be unbearable. Love Always, John.

ANNIE 1998 can only improve I love you as always Ally B.

ANN half a bottle a day keeps the good doctor away. With all my love Fred

ANNIE Thank you for continuing to illuminate the evening of my life

ANNIE My Darling you are never out of my thoughts. Je T'aime D. xxx

ANNIE B Wishing you the very best on Valentines Day. All my love, your son Jon xxx

ANNIE, The sun and moon rise in your eyes. Be mine. D.

ANNI Pussy. New directions, new love, new life, E with nut brown Angie

ANN My Babling, after years together, will you marry me? I will always love you. Steve.

ANNI to my wonderful love who is always climbing mountains for me. Xxxx

A NOISY creaking bed, your face flushed flame red, then after sleepy head. 'Nuff Said!' All yours, all mine, always. Fat Legs Pennyxx

ANTICHRIST $5m for Gatwick security video showing fur coated grapefruit jogging stripogram. Negotiate terms with husband

A Sweet Irish Rose I Love and Do Cherish. You Are My Life A Thousand Times Over. My Darling, My Four Leaf Clover.

ATS Signals corporal get me fall in and no more jankers 097

ATTENTION: My dentist, please can you help, I have this pain that makes me yelp, the pain I have is not oral, my intentions aren't immoral, so come on Doctor Pam, inject me, drill me, sedate me, just say you and be my valentine. Love AM

AUDREY Unless I look upon you in the day there is no day to look upon. You are my lovely now and always. The nightingale.

AUDREY Will I worship you forever, isn't heaven for evermore. Love, Gerry.

AVEDO VESOL SPIE sorted, sort of.

AVOID Hassle be my submissive and passive valentine and make this SOS 'over the moon' again. Chum vole scurry 10.

AYLER Love you so viel and your black tummy button. Dein rechtie

B

B.J.W. Butterfly Butterfly in the sky, my love confined you it had to fall, good luck and happy landings in Maida Vale.

B. Pack, clouds, away! and welcome, day!/ With night we banish sorrow./ Sweet air, blow soft; mount, lark, aloft/ To give my Love good-morrow! B.

BAAABY Aloomak to Dave stuck with: IVMLYALBTW.

BABES You are the wind beneath my wings Love Keith

BABY CHUCKLES Today is a day for shush! lots of it; kisses; hugs and love. Rufty.

BABYDOLL You can knock three times on my ceiling anytime, love jetson.

BAGGY Britches, dearest. Love you askes. Roll on the Eagles. Tinie

BAJOOBA our souffle is perfection & side dish(es) superb my love always xxxx.

BALDY I'll always love you from the woman with the fat belly!

BALLOON BELLY you are not. I love you forbetty such alot. XXXXX

BAMBI Thank you for making 1997 the most incredible year yet. Cannot wait to discover what 1998 will bring. Love you always & forever, Joe.

BARBARA SCHOFIELD Our love is everything. You have all my love, Tony.

BARBARA Love and want you more today than ten years ago. Penny.

BATTERY Boy awaits the sweet fragrance of bitchilier whenever: love xxx xxx

BATTUS Bettegus Belius Bottomus Squiddly Squiddly do I'm in love with you.

BEAMER, Did ya hurt yeself when ya fell from the heavens. Love you this much. S.

BEAR Don't be late, we have a date at our Welsh Rendezvous. Loads of love, Babsy.

BEAR I wish you were chasing me through the forest today. I'll always love you-Little Bear.

BEARS In love should hug tight keeping warm all through the night.

BEAST Loving, Lovable, Loved. Lots of HOF for Bertolino mio on Valentine's Day and always. My noble, innocent, loving beastling- hug, hug, Your Keeper.

BEAUTIFUL Naughty Wife

BECCA How can I tell you in so few words how I feel? Simple - I love you!!! Paul.

BEEF Beef McBeef. Hope you're a happy mlsey today. With love, Alfred.

BELLA Ti amo tanto que voglio volare, Claudio xxxx

BELOVED thanks for 8 years of love and caring happy valentine's pigs

BELOVED R Special thoughts. Missing you. Lovely memories. Ever yours R xxxx

BEN GORDON Our favourite boy at St Andrews (a good runner too). We love you xxx. Guess who!

BENJAMIN BUNNY You've got me wrapped around your finger. I love you forever, your Flopsy XXXXXXXX

BENJAMIN Sorry, No Porsche today. But see I Love you. Kiss Soonja.

BESOTTED on Camera. Sweet memories of pleasure in The Alan Bennett Hotel. Please make it happen again. Will love you forever.

BEST ears - love as a twosome has produced a two-and-a-half-some and I can't wait for the threesome. The b.

BETHAN. You're one in a million. Happy Valentines Day, Lots of Love, Daniel. XXXXX

BETTY Your my favourite hotpot any time of the year. Love Jerry.

BETTY love via the sun of a Dorchester born man

BEVERLEY For those who love time is eternal.

B for Beastie monster loves and adores you. Be my valentine monsterette.

BIFFA, I Love You lots forever. From your very own naughty girl.

BIG chief big tum, let your heart go, believe in us. Our love is endless. Big chief nice bum

BIG foot I miss you all the time, I love you, be mine. MS

BIG TREASURE You were my best find ever. My most precious, priceless, prized, possession, Little Gem.

BILLY CHEESE Moose Boy Love you more than chocolate and beer. Piglit

BILLY, Scorpio "I did but see him passing by" Geminixx

BK and the black and whites all love him lots and lots.

BOBBY SAUNDERS, Top Geezer. The Sporty Dwarf will love you forever. Give us a snuggle.

BOB, I hope now it's in print you will finally believe me when I say I love you. Happy Valentines Day. Love always. L.

BOOPUS London, Panama, Maine, I will follow thee. Let us have peace.

BOUNTEOUS love is still sublime. Virtue sometimes. Adulterated goodness often needs you.

BOURNEMOUTH 1, Bath 1. A fair result, and a perfect match! Here's to many more exciting games!

BRAZIL, BRAZIL Well what more can I say! You've won the match! All my love Dogo Dogo

BRENDA, My gorgeous Valentine, I'm truly, madly, and deeply in love with you and I always will be. Kevin xxx.

BRENDA My Lancashire rose you make me burst into prose . Your Sunderland boy is jumping for joy. X

BRENDA constantly thinking of you, even all the way from down under.

BRER Rabbit I want to be in love with you forever, we must read another story soon. Thanks for a brilliant 12 months. Love you lots xxx

BRIDGET I love you and I'm yours forever. So think of me on one knee, please say yes and marry me - Masood

BRIGITTE You should know it, but two men love you much!

BRILLO! Bring the vaseline, I want you, I need you. Lots of love Kixx

BROWN eyes can't say it but same as every year.

B the greatest thing in all my life is loving you, I could not love you more.

BUA QUAN My love, my life, my wife. All my love, Steve.

BUB DARLING - My Valentine of thirty years. Here's to the next thirty! All my love, Bug.

BUFFY, Love always, in Matlock and everywhere. Bez.

BUMBLY 1402 XXXX Hon.

BUMPER. Let's get together and found a new dynasty at Tallisbay, Big Heart.

BUNNY long sex legs, I love you very dearly, Chunky Bunny

BUTTONS Love is permanent and will always be with us, Kissyface. xxxx.

BUZZ BUZZ Mr Cuddles take a country tumble with Retrousse Bumble Bear

BWANA bear is still your sweet obedient and loving valentino bear

C

CATHERINE Patricia Hay happiness and much love for the next quarter century.

CATHERINE I love you. Soon we'll be together. Love for always, Malcolm.

CATHY in trouble I'm sure! Paler grain confused! Love you lots, Nomis.

CATHY Love Phil.

'CAUSE when I close my eyes, I can still see your smile. It's bright enough to light my life. Out of it's darkest hour

CERI: My arms may not always reach you, but I'm all yours all the time. Rxxx

CE you are my CURRENT I think of you and miss you ETERNAL and always will LOVE love you. Please stay in touch Office

CHANCHITA - Te doy tanto sloop porque te quiero mucho - EL GUAPO FLACO

CHARLES Vassey Ellis - Happy Valentine's Anniversary. With all my love Emma Louise.

CHARLOTTE DAVIES...Be my Valentine...You know who I am...xxxxxx.

CHARLOTTE. Love you always forever and ever. Porno.

CHEEKY BROWN Monkey face, I love you playing SLG's with your little dormouse

CHEEKY I love you for ever tonnes of kisses sexy

CHIAKU Life together will be full of joy and happiness. I love you today, but I'll love you even more tomorrow. Love Aaby. xxxx.

CHICK, Will you help me tune my radio? Love always Snap.

CHIEF SPONSOR, Dog handler and septic tank expert. You're still my Valentine.

CHI once again all my love Simon

CHILLER Up the Hammers! You're top banana. Love Essex Girl xxx

CHOPS we have the most success and cuddles. So lucky. Chuckles

CHRISTOFF, My darling hubby you're so cuddly. Cross you fingers doubley to win our dream to Disney. Forever, James. XXXXX

CHRISSY - Love you lots mum xxx xxx xxx

CHRISTINA You are becoming more and more beautiful by the day. I love you sweetheart, S.

CHRIS I love you more than you will ever know. From your hot water bottle.

CHRISSY You are and always will be the only kitten in my life. Love always Beard.

CHRIS.C. Love you always, from your 2 special girls. xxxxxx

CHRIS All my love, always, J

CHUBBY Missing your baby face, love and stuff, your friend at sea.

CHUDDLEBUM Keep right on we'll be there at the end of the road. Love you for ever and ever. Bumble.

"CHUNKS, the Italian earth moved for us this time. Holding each other beneath our blankets, under the Tokyo moon. Forever" Your Darling mutant baby

CIARAN l'amour che muove il sole e l'altre stelle (alighieri) Love Max

CLAIRE your love makes every day feel like this one, love Steven.

CLAIRE The Cuttlefish is jolly, and likes a nice Cigar. G xxxx.

CLAIRE Put down the Pineapple and look at this. I Love You.

CLARE-Bear, love you lots and lots, will you marry me, Mikey-John

CLAYTON DEMANDRE How I love and miss you in Hanoi.

CLEGRAM, Fenwick. To the Dad I love be my valentine, Jools XXXX.

CMB. Love and kisses from Birthday Boy, L and H.

CM I will love thee still my dear while the sands of life shall run. SM.

COLIN, You recovered my car, you rescued my life, you extremely special person, I love you, your wife.

COLIN, love is knowing you. From a very happy Joelle.

COLIN miss you very much. Wish we could meet as friends. E

COLLEEN Image looking from the balcony onto the sea with your boys.

CONCORDE, Jay C. To my 'BA'd boy, I think that you're Super (sonic). I think we'll 'MAK' a lovely couple. Do you want to join the mile high club? Love the 'Claw Hammer'

CORGI Basket Tinsel Ruffle my feathers and I'll peck your paws honk honk forever yours Swan.

COVER ME with your warmth in this green city in the sun.

CRISTINA BEVAN To our Valentine. All our love Shaun and Orlena xxxx.

CROWMAN Keep spraying!! Love Ya, Mush.

CUDDLES I love need you and your sexy toes. Lots of love, Frank.

C.A.H. Eve make my world go round my life worth living. Can eve be mine.

CAMILLA'S MUM I love you twelve times as much now. Itinerate golfer.

'CAM - I love you Jo'

CAN'T get enough of your love, Down Under Kisses.

CAPTAIN BEAKY of the Strand: Bravest accountant in the land; Ran for the train and caught my heart; Darling may we never part. xx Muppet.

CARIAD Hoc volo sic iubeo sit pro ratione voluntas Love the Rogue.

CAROLE A Tiger year for me, in insipid one for you. Thanks for everything. All my love, Tiger XOXO

CAROLINE Thanks for the most lovely, sexy, exciting time of my life. Three little words Richard.

CAROLE together afloat not without problems but it's wonderful sharing my life with you. PIXMAN.

CAROLE NORMAN. Darling Carole, I will Carol my love for you until life peters out. Peter.

CAROLINE Thinking of you each hour and dreaming every second. Forever, Sandy.

CAROLE Still my sexy Panda. All my love always. Kev

CARIBBEAN Cruise. Jamaica? No! She went of her own accord. Come back safely. I love you.

CARRIE, You are everything to me. I love you now and forever. Love, Adam.

CATHERINE You are the best. Moving wouldn't be the same without you!! All my love, Nigel.

D

DARLING BEGUM - Valentine's day, fear no more, someone is crazy about you!

DARLING DAPHNE "Beauty's self you are when all you clothes are hid". Love you. Your RLC.

DARLING LOLLIPOP I crave your silken tastes and desire your melting moments! Agnes

DARLING M - Promise me a lifetime of chocolate and ketchup and I'll be your forever! xxxx

DARLING JO I'm sorry we've missed spending our first married Valentines together.

DARLING BUNNY Happy First Anniversary. I love you madly, forever yours, Hambo. XXX

DARLING H.A.H. love you oodles, fancy you like crazy, yours forever, Bubbaxx

DARLING Spud, welcome home. My Love, Dumpsy.

DAVE, I love you more today than I did yesterday, but not as much as I will tomorrow, all my love Diane xxxx.

DAVE OWEN, he came, he saw, he conquered! Be my Valentine from your Legal Eagle.

DAVID: you are a pearl from lifes' fresh crown, never let our love grow stale

DAVID I love you very much that's all N

DAWN forever yours I stand, and in Love with you always. Douglas

D D G - If you were the only girl in the world and I was the only boy -I'd be very happy.

DEAREST The Peeping Snoory. May Gentle Kisses To Your Sweet Eyes Always Awake You From The Sleep Of 100,000 Million Years. The Prancing Hince.

DEAREST G after near-40 wonderful years your adoring husband still find you daily more lovable - J

DEAREST William, you give me so much happiness. I love you so much. Woof! Woof! Your puppy dog xxx

DEAREST Chelsea Girl. You are always on my mind. I will love you forever. The ring is waiting. G.

DEAREST John I love you more than yesterday but less than tomorrow.

DEAREST SAUSAGE Love that moves sun and stars is yours on a stick. Best beans forever.

DIANE As long as the world turns I will love you. Geoff.

DIDDLY WUMPS make me growl with pleasure. Be my valentine. All my love - Woofer

DIDDY MINT Another year and 365 more reasons why you will always be my Valentine.

DILL, Names are what we call each other, child or friend, wife or lover, your name, shortened, means a herb - a small and cute, unusual word. But in full, spelt out, it shows much better, conveys what I mean to the letter, so that when I see your name please see, that what it really means to me is Darling I Love You So. T.

D I miss you. Bordeaux '90 still unopened and both of us in need of some TLC. All my love, I.

DING DONG Darling. Cannibalism is not illegal, so how about that nibble?

DINKPOT I love you lots. Please be my Valentine forever. Love Youngster.

DINO, I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears of all my life, Country Bumpkin.

DIPPY Beaucoup d'amour et grande pasion from your Personal Valentine. Donnypon.

DIPPY Di - Thanks for everything in the last six years - all our love, Granny and Charlie.

DIZZY IZZY All my love on Valentines Day. Get my money we you in Greenwich. P.D. xxx

DJT Killing Miranda. The next big thing? I hope so! All my love and appreciation for the past 3 years. Your Headbanger.

DOGBERT can I be your tap and forever, I love you

DONCASTER Belle. Make an old Melton man happy. Be my Sweet Valentine.

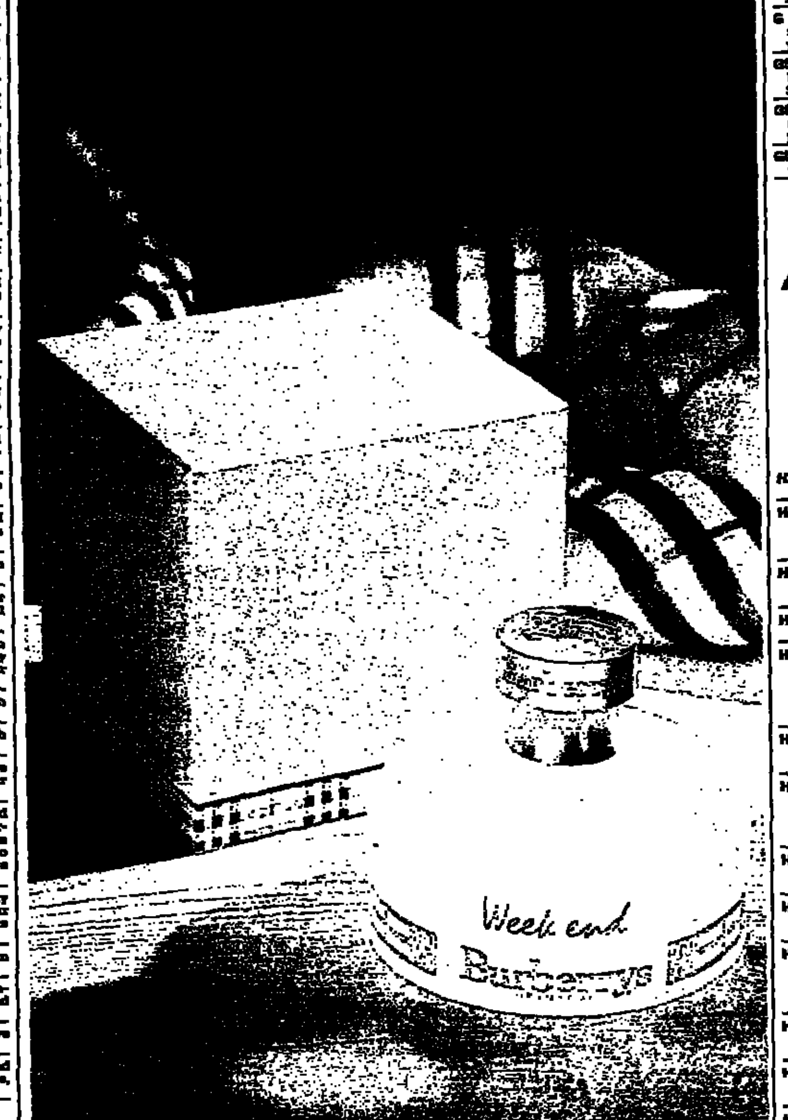
DON'T be sceptical, let's renew our Maastricht treaty next weekend before the carnival is over. 'Seeker'

DOR Hello Hunny Bunny, have faith, remember Hays, Harrods, Melbourne, Beaulieu, Beans, Owls, Bamms THG GHB

DUMBO fly away with me and live happily ever after Love Mr mole

DUMBO fly away with me and live happily ever after Love Mr mole

DUNCAN - 17 years on I still love you. I guess I've caught you up those first 2 weeks. Please give us a second chance.



D.A. Love and miss you still S.A.

D. Love holds me captive again and I tremble with bitter sweet longing. With love, as always. Me

DABID, Where you from you sexy thing? Still want to get hitched? I do KC, XX

DADDY. We love you the best!! Can we have a little brother or sister, please?? Lady Salma and Lord Rhumba.

DADDY-BOY We love you more than words can say J and TL.xxx

DALEX I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears, of all my life. Chamidh.xx

DARLING - If someday I win your heart, so you feel as I do, can we spend a romantic evening together, because your something special

DARLING E, thank you for the most beloved and tenderest moments of my life. Despite all the difficulties, please never let us go! Gidly

DARLING Wendy you are my life, you are my reason. I will love you forever. Will you marry me? Your ever loving Ian xxx.

DARLING dearest sweetest Prudence, the last twenty years have been so good. Love you forever, Georgie.

DARLING! You are the love of my life and I can't fly without you. Make the clouds go away before it's too late.

DARLING Jacky, Loving and laughing, our lifes highlights with you, long may they continue. Lots of love Nathan.

DARLING DANIELA Life, love, laughter, liberty, lobsters. Lots Linger longer. Love Los.

DEAR Kay a touch of Eastern promise is yours if you guess who this is from lots and lots of love and kisses Abdul.

DEAR BRUFFY, At Last! All love, Tufty.

DEAR Bob, missing you so mucho, love and kisses from someone in Barbados

DEAR SAEED, My life will be different without you. Sunny with love.

DEAR S, Keep on twinkling and being my little baby star. Love from your Honey P.

DEAW, Mi yw di son Dim y myn o daw nos! I Gorsie oddiwrth Joey

DEBBIE Have a great day and remember to say yes at 4 O'clock. Love as always.

DEBORAH. Remember Panadol Extra cures muscle ache and Tamrus KAs. You're beautiful and I love you always. Rooney xxxx

Dear-Est May we help each other dive deeper as Dolphins and soar higher as Eagles. Happy St Valentines day with Oceans of Love, your BeaveR.

DEIRDRE - My friend, my pal, my wife, my lover, my darling. Kenny

DENISE, Ten years in the making, but wasn't it worth the wait. My love forever, Den xxx.

DENISE I effuse Respect I can't lose Friendship we infuse Because I love the Floozs

DESPITE the competition of Bath Rugby Club, Formula One, Snooker and Monty I just love you best of all.

DIANA wherever you are, the place is more like paradise - Love Boy

DIANE 12 celebrations our lifelong special bond blessed with two precious daughters amour toujours amour. Martin

DIANE Still want you, love you, need you. Love always, Dave. XXXX

DIANE Missing you very much. Love you for ever. God Bless you my darling. David.

DIANE Chou chou my heart stops when you are away love Jim.

DIANE, I'll never leave you, and I will never stop loving you.

E

E. So glad to hear from you. Feared you were seriously ill. You mean more to me than anyone. So sorry about your sight

EDITH - After these many years you have my heart & you are my Valentine - Greg

ELAINE Ashley Phillips. May the flowers I bring make your heart sing from your special valentine

ELIZABETH nee Holden, MPharm Notts, married Monk, once of 39 Mildmay Park, is in the thoughts of EMB today.

ELIZABETH. Leave Oliver and fly to Florence to be my Valentine. David.

ELIZABETH (Boofy) Have an excellent day. All my love always 31X Roger

ELIZABETH with all my love - Yes 'All my love' - Love John xxxx

EMMA My Gorgeous Babe. I Love You. Always & Forever Yours. The Luckiest Bloke Ever.

ENZIANO of each other, we should be kind while there is still time. Himself. With love.

'ERKY loves 'Ermie, 'Ersey a little and Jumie y a lot.

Every time we say good bye I die a little, but when ever we meet my heart skips a beat. From your beloved Ducking.

F

FAB ten sensational years two wonderful boys one adoring husband your gorgeous love way lab hempot

FARMYARD Friend: I will love you forever and ever; ballooning fat bloke

FAT BEAR "I Love you right up to the moon - AND BACK" said Moley.

FAT BUM (no longer) my love for you is ever stronger - Aye.

FATE brought us together, devotion has kept us together, I love you!

FATS no Nerd to step on those scales. Till love handlings are on me, Billy.

FATTY I love you so much. Love Barty

F I am contented now, with rose coloured memories. Thank you.

FIFI Dubois. You drive me mad. You're the best time I've ever had, Woody.

FILIZ HULYA Let us count the stars together. Seni Seviyorum. Mike.

FLITTY Popper over fifty three wonderful years love you much.

FLORA, I love you today, I'll love you tomorrow, love you through happiness, tears or sorrow.

FLUDE Same message still love you into the next year plus.

FLUFFY, Your pet sheep now believes in miracles. Thank you for the last year. Love you

FLUFFETTE You make my heart sing. Love you Fluffy.

FLUFFY WUFFY Cuddly Anne I will always love you - Harry

FOR JON Another fine product from Castleford. Happy Valentines Day.

FOR you Nathalie - My love eternally

FOXY Adores you L.O. There it is.

FRANZ WOO @ Shorton always my Valentine. Love and to infinity.

FRIEDL give yourself to Me. And be queen of my heart fOr eteRnity. Ton amant passionné.

FROM Piggy to Piggie in pen to pen. Our love stands time, my 4th time valentine. Ole, ole Paula

FROM Poopers to Piddlers. Be my valentine forever

FURRIEST Kitten looking forward to 5th September. Love Pusskin.

G

GAY Three times a lady. Wife, lover, friend. All my love, Ketchy

GEE FLANAGAN - Stop your shenanigans; Gimme your answer do; Come plight your troth; Before we're both; Too old, too wit and too woo. Brian.

GEMMA PUGH Always and forever. You're on my mind. Love you Roo!

GENTLY: "Love is an ever-fixed mark/that looks on tempests and is never shaken." Muffin.

GEORGE Forever my husband, my lover, my friend. Number Eighteen.

GILLIAN - There's only one girl for me and that's you, Love Bruce.

GILLIAN, I may not like horses but I love you loads xxxx.

GILL Words alone could never express the depth of my love for you. You really are the wind beneath my wings. Dave

GILLY my fluffy chicken, Valentine's day should be 3rd April - F xxxxxx.

GILLY, my dearest flow'r; winter is icumen in, Lhude sing goddamm.

GINA W. 7 months & 5 days til the big day. Nervous? Robbie L.

GLITTER girl of W8. My heart is on fire for you, the most beautiful valentine, be mine. Love R.

GLORIA MAE Nullis Secundus Devon suits you and you suit me. Pierre.

G My special man, now it's 8, you're still great. I'm always in the right place when I'm with you. You're the best thing in my life. Luv U Lots. Your R.W. XXX

GOBBY DUCK Please me by Valentine. all my love, Budgie.

GOD BLESSED me by entwining our lives together. Thanks for being you.

GOLDFISH You are my sunshine. All my love, Rod.

GOOD MORNING My sweet Lou, tick here for breakfast (W4DT) ☐

GORGEOUS STUDENT of midwifery: Your blood's sweet 'n' low. An exceptional 63 - Amazing - on a diet d'eau.

GORGEOUS '48 Vintage who comes from "Different Worlds." Thinking of you.

GRAHAM (GCS) lets share more than three letter acronyms. With love.

GRAHAM I miss you. Can we be friends now? Ring me? J

GRANT - Across the world in record time, your thoughts of love unite with mine - Becky

GREAT Romantics Apart Excruciatingly Must Endure Love's Ever Vaster Yearnings, But Remember Intense Desire Grows Extremely Torrid.

GREAT Friend, Warm Heart, Mockra es oh, Who could ask for more?

GRESHKIN Kate, My Valentine - You will be mine? Then, broken heart repaired, our lives will intertwine

GRISLY, beloved, we all love you scrumptiously. Magoo Biff Cumberbert et furry ones xxx

GROSY pool girl. Even more beautiful and desirable after 33 years R.

GROW old along with me, the best is yet to be. Peter.

GRUBBY. Years pass - my love grows stronger every time. Always yours, G

G Same old chap, same old message, loving thoughts of you always.

GSM. Listen again to Fourth Movement Mahler's Fifth Symphony. Crazy for you.

GSM Listen again to fourth movement Mahlers Fifth Symphony. Crazy for you.

GUDRUN My love for you will never be an issue - Love Tash

H

H.T. La damme persian plus bella. Je t'aime pas de rien a dire.

H - ain't nobody loves you better! (Told you it'd be public) Be my valentine, if you've got the patience! - R

HAIRY MAMMOTH dance a little dance, make a little love, get down tonight - Oooooo!

HALF my life, All my love, Forever. Yours, Andy xxxxxxx.

HAMMY Will you always be my Valentine, let's SOS, cuddle or just be together. I miss your smell, your warmth, your beauty. I love you. Teddy, Tigger and Squirrel.

HAMPSHIRE Poppet squeezy bum. We love you. Farmer Tom and Old Shep.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Darling Polar Bear - Here's to another year of bouncing paws, Masses of Polar Love, 500 polar pts, 3 mini Icebergs - MALE POLAR

HARLEY you are the queen of my heart, my world - To both kabuurat hel love Bhev

HARRY - Have I ever told you that I love you? I do. Always. T.S.

HARVEY.K. Miss you loads when I'm away, love you more than I can say, specially when I'm thinking about nothing everyday! Love Rufus.

HARVEY Take my hand, take my whole life too. Elvis or Bono. Eternally yours, love Jayne.

HAYLEY, I'm "crazier than Frank Spencer on rollerskates" for you! Love Alan

HAZEL You will always be our special valentine. Thank you for looking after us. We love you very much Henry, Kim, and Jeoff.

HAZEL A truck call from Elephant. It's more than calf love. K.

HAZEL SMITH. Love to darling HAZELNUT from your devoted TERRIKINS and SUZY.

HEAD Girl. I love you as much as you love publishing. Old Boy.

HEADLINES "Wild bikers who didn't quite make it to Paris for breakfast do brunch in Brussels". One of last year's highlights. Love You S.T.T.S.

HEART, head, hand, happily, held, by heavenly Hyolas J. Love you Shular. Katie J.

HEDGEHOG I Love You Avastrus

HELEN, It would take a thousand poets a thousand years to describe a fraction of my love for you. Forever yours, Mark XXXXXXXX.

HELEN - What were all the worlds' alarms to mighty Paris when he found sleep upon a garden bed that first night in Helen's arms?

HELEN Still love you more than you can imagine. You're still my cutie, body and soul. Love, Don.

HELEN, I love you with all my heart and soul. Love Mark.

HELEN My one my only the best of all infinite love Ian.

HELEN may all your dreams come true. I love you eternally. KP xx

HELLO GORGEOUS. You have given me the best four years of my life. Now I'm going to make you happy forever. My Baby. xxxxx

HENRI George Clooney means nothing to me (honestly) I Love You. M.

HI Bear miss you when I am away love to be home.

HILARY, Pink Elephants calling from Japan. You are the best Valentine and Wife! Always yours, Eddie.

HILARY- Watch my love last forever as you wear my ring - FOPG.

HILARY, you're my favourite work of art, Peter.

HI Pig. Sweetie assistante service person, will you voyage with me au Maldives? Plus de cadeaux pour moi, juste une bise, pour faire bruler l'amour. S.t.p. Lundi on mangerais chez moi. Je t'aime Le Doctor

HIPPY Chick Paaf times a million. Hugs as big as a house. Charlie.

HOBBS, soon we will have a home but for now we have got the love dome.

HOI DEM. A huge loving low fat thank you from your dam.

HOLA Pegara, do you know how much you are loved? Air Porkers.

HOLLY GOLIGHTLY My soap opera co-star. Friends always and hopefully bookshop partners. Watch out Al Checcil Much love Charlie Crocker.

HOMESTART CHERVB A.K.A. Northgate. Babe I love etc. you loads, Mr Brief.

HONEY BEE All my love. Best wishes to all in the E.D. department. Keep it up. Much love, Honey Bee.

HONEY- (Piglet, Pigeon, Chicken etc). I love you more than words can ever say. Yours always & forever. BC

HORSKY Cat bewitcher or purrer you are forever my Charlaine love LP.

HOTEL VICTOR In pink and Georgio looks wonderful tonight. Incurably yours. R.

HUMMINGBIRD am still besotted and even more in love with you - Taff the Slim

I

IAIN Stuart loves his Polly. One year gone, twenty nine to go.

IAN Darling, we will love you forever and beyond. Your two puppies

IAN Top Scorer. Love always, Diana.

I'd like to watch the Tytherington fox and saddle up by the light of the moon, we have so much fun and we really are one - please be mine soon

IF I'd name a flower for you it would be "Liebling". ILBVGH

IF only Love was easy I would be your Wife, but sadly my darling its not and you have another life. Love you JA

IF your counsellor suggests wearing a pinny for me can I make you feel 30 again?

I liked you first, then I loved you more and, in New York City, learnt to adore.

I LOVE YOU AL is not enough "original" it states so I must add, presumably, this reference to Bill Gates.

I love you dearly Veronica, thanks for marrying and bearing with me. I'm a very lucky man. Love Victor

I love your caringly. I love you thoughtfully. I love you everlasting.

194 ILY XMN 158

I'm everything I am because you love me. Signed Luther

I miss my chocolate box from Cuckoo. ILY

I'M sorry I keep being sober. I still get drunk with love when I think of you, Louise, luv Tony.

INTIAZ embraces Justain in love and friendship; a lady of true quality.

IN previous times we couldn't be together, now we are. I love you completely SJ and will do until the end of time.

INTERNATIONAL stylist is loved like CRAZEE by designer label.

INVU of today, a message to say 'I love you Pete' Wendy.

I really really love you, I just wanted to say, really, really, really, on this Valentines Day.

I squash your head! Cos your Inffacley.

IT'S been great getting to know you Vanessa. I look forward to knowing you even better. Love Suneel.

IT'S the simple things in life that count-Teddy Bears, tortoises, hedgehogs-Cartier. Lets just go to the moon!

I WANT all the world to know how much I love you. Let's start from U.K.

J

JANET NANCY WAINE AS ALWAYS "SIMPLY THE BEST"

J. Never been so happy, before or since too. Long years of loving and missing you, but our stars are looking really good now.

JACKIE. You are truly a wonderful mother and wife, a special thankyou for entering my life, lots of love always. John Doe xxx.

JACQUES: To the loveliest, kindest, sexiest Grandpa ever. I will always love you. Kisses. DDG.

JACQUELINE. You still generate a fervent passion within me. Love You. Bear.

JACQUA The wardrobe's almost finished. Happy Valentines. All my love always, Pablo.

JAG Most beautiful of all, truly a class of her own. KGC.

JAMIE OLIVER Noo-nar. You are my favourite boy and I rub you. Lots of love, Sharkie. XXXXX

JAN All VWI. loves you now and forever, your own Darsl XX

JANE DARLING Now everybody knows, I love you, you gorgeous, beautiful, captivating, SLDB, seductress. Don.

JANE Hackney's loss is Chiswick's gain, SA calls my lovely Jane, what Canada gives I can't berate, for April looks like tete-a-Tate. E1.

JANE KR. Roses are red, violets are blue, the best thing I've done was marry you

JANE My darling. April 13th will always be a very special day. I love you Steve.

JANE S My life, my love, you make me complete, my gratitude.

JANET HONEYBEE Your whisky dog and faithful companion wants to blend his life with yours forever.

JANET 'Rose' Sturdy, the more you eat the hungrier I become (for you) All my love. T.

JANET all the love and joy we have is very special Denis.

JANE Wife, lover, friend and mother. Words cannot emphasise my love for you. Always yours Jason.xx

JANICE DAGG, Happy Valentines Day. Love Simon.

JAN - My lady from the Times. I love you. our rendevous will last for ever

JANNA GORDON The sweetest girl in North Weald. We love you xxx.

JAVEA'S hopeful. Barcelona's beckoning. Whatever the result you're first class in my reckoning. AML capability.

JAW looking forward to Paris in the Spring - not that house again? Mickey Dickey.

JAYNO Love for a weekend is wonderful. I will love you for a life time?

JEAN all I need is the air that I breath and to love you Forever

JEAN I would still like you to live with me Darling, all my love your clown.

JEAN, My life with you is wonderful. I'll love you forever. Tim.

JEANNE, plus que hier-moins que demain. Je t'aime. Renee

JEAN ROSEMARY My lover, friend and amazing old bat you are wonderful and I love you.

JED. Sharing the knowing of mischievous glancing; whispers dancing; succulent passion; overriding fashion. Love you. E

JELLY BABY You're spicey and posh but please come to my boulevard.

JENNI, the older we get the better we were and getting better still. Love always Paddy.

JENNI Every Nightingales note is for ever. Remember me as really yours.

JENNY I love you more than words can say. Will you marry me? Jeremy.

JENNY I Love You always. Jonathan.

JIM soon to be a JIM, all that I am, all that I can be, for and with you. All my love Chris

JEREMY: Love is thought held together by the heart. My thoughts spinning around my mind and heart are of my love of you! Mark.

JEREMY MOLE sends snuffles of subterranean affection to the windy old owl.

JETS: Although I was blessed with your love for such a short time, those memories will remain within my heart forever. I'll love, miss and need you always. XX

JILL, although from two we've now become three you'll always be the number one for me. All my love Graham

JILL: In Paris, Crete, New York and Wimbledon I love you completely. Where's next? Steve XXXX

JILL MARY - Dearest pompon - you bring a brilliant sunshine to a winters tale

JIMBINO - My adored and treasured angel whom I love and cherish forever - Marykins XXX

JIM DAVIES. Happy Valentines day to my own Tally Tubby love S.O.B.

JIM my universe life's love made for each other yours always Veena.

JIM, where does the time go..? I love you, Sara.

J I you love. Lets quilt our hearts together. R

JJPP loves JC more than JC really knows. JC thinks JJPP takes her for granted. Never.

JJ: Schem sol shik us and most all TT love you!

JOAN Created in Ireland, perfected in Manchester, loved in credably, you really are so very special. John.

JOANNA Lambchop, my pretty little Greek girl I'll love you always, Bisiry.

JOANNE Johnson, Je t'adre! Lots of love, Navin R.

JOELLE For 25 wonderful years, All my love and kisses - Keith

JOHN. That hand remains outstretched, unwavering and patient. The love it holds is safe and yours.

JOHN - May Your Visible Attributes Last Eternally, Now Time Inadvertantly, Naughtily Escapes

JO: my interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there with you. Jim (29.03.98) XXX.

JO R. If I could do it all again, I'd do it with you! All my love, Rxx.

JO R ATK Love you lots, love you heaps, love you loads, love you heaps. Be my eternal Valentine. A. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

JO To a wonderful wife. Thank You for a great year. Alan.

JOY Love from me to you Today and Forever John.

JP My absolute love always and forever. R.

JULES, Thanks for last night and the last couple of months. Thinking of you always, love Low XXXXX

JULIA Jones. I feel so sad it's far too long to live without you is oh so wrong. One day I pray it'll go our way. All love Charles

JULIE: No words can say how much I owe you. You are my best and truest friend and the love of my life.

JULIE RUTHERFORD We love you, we need you, we think you're lovely. Hairy Lemon and The Nanimals.

JULIE D of Canterbury. You beautiful woman and academician. I love you Patrick H

JULIE a Valentine wish to be with you not just now but for eternity love Mark.

JULIE WILLIAMS You are my one and only, Julie. All my love from Beijing as always. Ian.

JULIE If small hamsters can do it, why don't we, will you? Love Alan.

JULIE - on this day last year we said I do - I still do - do you? - Richard

JULIE, Mexico is an option, just bring your Zippo. DXX

JUNE after all these years my love for you grows stronger day by day. Love now and for always Richard

JUNE I still love and adore you, your own H and T.

JUNE My Valentine in our silver year, now for gold and more.

JUST in ecstasy live my dream stroll in the Black Forest and play conkers at dawn.

J We both believe that fate had long ago decided that we must meet in the Island. Darling J please be my Valentine. A.



SAY 'I LOVE YOU' THIS Week end WITH Burberrys OF LONDON

هكذا من الاصل

John Young records the imminent passing of one of the world's characters: the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* salesman

The death of a salesperson



IMAGES

Book salesmen were traditionally seen as seedy characters

On a grey morning. Drew Wilson sets up his stand in a busy shopping centre in Andover, Hampshire, for one of the last times. Passers-by eye the shelves of handsomely bound volumes of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* with curiosity but, mostly, they shuffle on.

"You have to be alert to spot a potential customer," he says. "It's often a question of catching someone's eye when he or she is only half interested. If you just sat there reading a newspaper you wouldn't do any business."

But by the end of March he will be out of a job. Mr Wilson and his 70 or so colleagues, all working on commission, have been told that the encyclopaedia, in printed and computerised versions (all 44 million words on two CD-Rom discs) is to be sold only in shops.

Jane Waterman, the company's vice-president in charge of sales and marketing, says the decision was made inevitable by the advent of electronic communications. "You don't need a specialist sales force to sell CDs. They can be sold in retail outlets like anything else," she says. Sets of printed volumes will still be available in bookshops for what she calls "a niche market".

Mr Wilson does not believe this will be an adequate substitute. "People won't go into a shop and spend £850 without an expert there to persuade and advise them," he argues.

Until now, he reckons to have achieved a sales turnover of more than £200,000 a year. But with the computerised version, at about £125, outselling the printed version by at least ten to one, salesmen could not begin to earn the same money in commissions.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has come a long way since its first publication in 1768, when it described Japan as a small island off the coast of California. With contributors such as Sir Walter Scott, Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein and Alfred Hitchcock, there was little doubt of the encyclopaedia's excellence, but the men who peddled it from door to door have traditionally been seen as seedy characters whom no one would employ in a "proper job" and who were

> 'People won't spend £850 without an expert there'

forced to resort to cajoling naive and impoverished families into buying something that would broaden their horizons and impress friends.

The door-to-door salesman was a product of the Depression years, selling on commission often the only hope of escaping penury. In my job-seeking days in Toronto in the 1950s, I was made aware that selling encyclopaedias ranked some way below insurance and real estate, though an Old Etonian friend claimed he was making a killing.

If Mr Wilson was good at the job, others were not. Keith Waterhouse recalled that, as a young parent, he told the salesman who called that he was happy to place an order and to pay cash on the nail. The salesman, aghast at being cut short in mid-patter, fled and was never seen again.

In the 1960s, aware that its salesmen were attracting increasing hostility, the company abandoned its door-to-door techniques. Since then, salesmen such as Mr Wilson have been dispatched to shopping malls, airports, railway terminals and motorway service stations to solicit trade.

His easiest sale was when a sculptor from Spain passed his stand at Heathrow, ordered two complete sets on the spot and two more by telephone the next day.

But it was not always so straightforward. Although never a foot-in-the-door salesman, his work has taken him by appointment into dozens of people's homes, ranging from flats on council estates to a stately home in Scotland.

Articulate and well-informed, Mr Wilson is a world away from the caricature sleazy salesman wearing a shabby raincoat. He began selling about ten years ago after working in industry and as a teacher. As a Scotsman, he is proud of *Britannica*'s Scottish origins. He is also irritated by recent coverage of the company's decision to disband its direct-sales force. "We were portrayed as reps eking out a living by knocking on doors. I'm not eking out a living; I earn good money selling a quality product."

On Easter Monday, Mr Wilson will set up his stand for the last time. During his years with the company his work has taken him to towns and villages across southern England, as far west as Bristol and north to Oxford, but he has been able to return to his home in Chichester, West Sussex, every evening. "I feel it is probably time for a change anyway," he says, "but I still think the company may come to regret its decision."

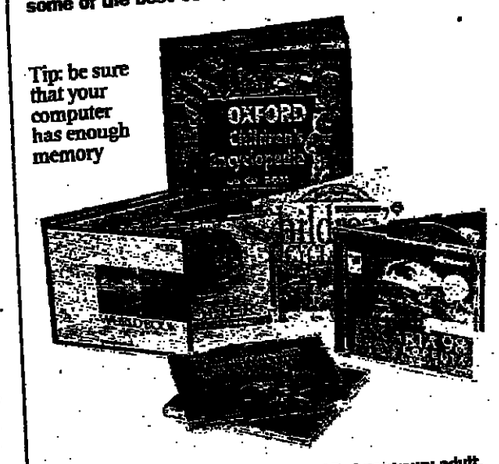
As if on cue, Elizabeth Corrigan arrives to inquire about buying the printed set for her grandchildren. Both she and her daughter, Jennifer Proctor, seem unimpressed by the CD offer. "We both love books and so do the children," Mrs Proctor says. "I can't stand computers."

● *For a free GCSE CD-Rom, see offer in main paper*

PICK OF THE EDUCATIONAL CD-ROMs

THERE IS a bewildering array of encyclopaedias on computer discs for sale, but parents willing to splash out will find they are a good investment. Here are some of the best CD-Roms. ARABELLA WARNER

Tip: be sure that your computer has enough memory



■ ***Encyclopaedia Britannica 98*, £125. Age group: adult. 44 million words, 8,000 pictures, 8 sound clips, 15,000 Internet links.**

Can tell you almost anything you want to know, from 25 articles on ulcers to 20-odd wartime aircraft. Very serious. The multimedia is colourless and hard to use. Uses huge amounts of memory.

■ ***Microsoft Encarta Deluxe 1998*, £79.99. Age: family. 10.5 million words, 12,500 pictures, 4,000 music and audio tapes, 140 videos and animations, 5,000 Web links.**

Easy to access and good drop-down menus. Great 360-degree panoramic view of the Colosseum, and the eye-witness account of the 1906 earthquake in Los Angeles. But the language is sometimes difficult for children.

■ ***World Book Deluxe 1998*, £49.99. Age: ten-plus. 13 million words (6 million on-line), 8,000 pictures, 700 sound clips, 150 videos, 5,000 Web links.**

Easy-to-find material using word or topic search. Strong scientific explanations. Helpful homework toolkit, with which you can write notes on relevant articles and generate 3D graphs. Music coverage thin. Not so whizzy on multimedia as *Encarta*.

■ ***Oxford Children's Encyclopedia*, £39.99. Age: eight-13. 2,000 articles, 3,000 pictures, 200 sound clips, 100 animations, 27 videos.**

Fantastic computer animation. By far the best explanation of the difference between an alligator and crocodile. Journey through First World War in 80 seconds of video footage. Inevitable limitation of database.

■ ***Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia 1998 Deluxe*, £49.99. Age: family. 10 million words, 10,500 pictures, 85 videos and animations, 21,000 Web links.**

Great anatomical guide to the horse, and video of *Titanic* sinking. Strong American bias. Idealised outlook on British monarchs. President Clinton gets pages, Tony Blair a couple of paragraphs.

■ ***Hutchinson Multi Media Encyclopedia 1998*, £39.99. Age: 12-plus. 6 million words, 52 video clips, 5,000 pictures. Hellcon Internet site.**

If it's information on the Spice Girls you want, this is the best on popular culture. Fun quotes and events of the day. Suffers from complex text: entry on the ozone layer completely flummoxing.

Valentines

K

KAREN: passion, mucking out, mortgage, children, shopping, work. And then comes love.

KATE - Let our love grow like our rose. Love always - David XXXX

KATE of Kate Hall. I dare to love you.

KATY. This is better than a meal, not quite as good as football. Love Mark X X X.

KAYE Bliss eyes desire to see thee, above all other things. Steve.

KEEPER Juciest bamboo shoot lovingly dropped at your feet. Hug Hug Beast.

KEEPER of your soul, also wants your body love you loads - D

KEN. No regrets. Just looking forward to a long life together. Love always M.

KEN, cannot wait until next weekend. I love you now and always.

KENNY, Love you lots and lots forever and ever, from her indoors.

KENSINGTON SQUIDGY, I just called to say I love you xxx

KERRIT enjoy Valentine's day from me, Coco, Maud and all the Monkeys.

KHADIJA All best as ever from number five

KIM One year later, still love and miss yo so much. Fred.

KING Duncan, make me your adoring slave. Your beloved Elisabeth

KIRAN Pamplemousse. When I saw you I fell in love. And you smiled because you saw, dear Mwore Cherie. Happy Valentines

KIRSTIN - I love you utterly and totally with all my heart - Ant

KISSES sweet and twenty for the loveriliest crow! From the sake keen

KISSYFACE I need you to be my valentine more than ever. Always yours Buttpan.

KNUCKLES Love you always, numb, numb, numb, numb, numb, numb, numb. Dewdrop.

KT FAIREY To little Miss Spending Spree, the card on the kitchen wall says it all, skint I may be but I love you too.

KYLIE- It's a shame gambling in England doesn't always pay...and welcome back.

L

LUCKY LOVEBUG
Thank you for the most wonderful times of my life.
E.I.F.F.A.B.

LARHAOISE mayligtraget s'agapo to quiero wo si nei ya kyuhlyu tvebya jag alskar dig ti amo thaim ta graibh leat in so many ways.

LADY A's worthy of infinite devotion - Hubby and George are forever smitten.

LADY GISSENTE The sights, sounds and senses of my travels are nothing beside my love for you. "Marco Polo"

LADY to red. You are my fussy lady. Keep it up. JD

LAMBSY I love you more than words can say. I love you to the moon and back again. I love you always. Happy Valentines Day. Love from Lambsy 12.(See the loves you too).

LAMBSPOO All my love on Valentines Day 98. L2 PRV.

LAURA Poopy pants ever a name sounded so sweet. Love you I just not. Tricky Nicky.

LAZZERI I cant wait to start my new life as Mrs C. Roll on 12th September 1998. Love T.

LEFT MOORINGS, Dusk. 15th December 97. Don't fear the storms, we have a well found ship. Tranquil islands my absent on our course. Love you more every day. xxxxxxxxxxxx

LEIGH. Words cannot describe the extent of my love for you, suffice it to say I LUVM

LESLEY I will love you forever and beyond x S

LETS GO and SeCure the world. From your digital profiler. Peace.

LIEUTENANT Louise, love you more and more each day. You're a splendid mimsie! with love, Leeza.

LIGHT of my life you've stolen my heart you're my lover you're my best friend K.T.

"LIKE Heaven above me the spy who loved me is keeping all my secrets safe tonight. nobody does it better." Your all time high.

LIKE the first days of summer you are still the best thing in my life.

LILIA Mi cielito windo y in luz de mi vida te quiero.

LINDSPOOS After all the years together I no longer run from your kisses. I Love You.

LINDSAY, when you're with me, I'm alive. Seven for luck, love and happiness. Always. Tim

LISA BAREFORD You sexy thing. A.

LISA I'll climb every mountain, swimm backwards across the swimm seas, cross the seas and never see another Bradford curry if you will be my vindaloo valentine xxxxx

LISA In my thoughts all day; in my dreams each night. Destined always to be apart. Elisa.

LISA To the lovely Lisa, "I LIKE YOU ALOT", well quite more than alot actually. Mick.

"LITTLEONE" from Phoenix - I can't wait until 3 April 99 because you are beautiful, loving, caring, kind and TC loves sharing Hammocks with you!.

LITTLE Nutbrown Hare so lovely so gentle so passionate you are my life and my only love my heart is yours for eternity stout.

LITTLE MOUSE. Will we ever be together for more than just a weekend? The times between seem so long. Big Bear.

LITTLE ONE You are my world. My guiding light and my travelling companion. Thank you for everything X Lumpy Custard.

LITTLE Bibby Pup - Love you chick, let's have a going over - Puppy.

LITTLE TED
Gerrout
Sky Cops Chicken

LITTLE legs I love more than the Tamworth Two love Rob.

LITTLE Panda I love you and I am always thinking of yo Big Seal.

LITTLE BABY WMCAST ask me love kisses lots xxxx

LITTLE Buddu Piggy loves Mimsie do love big budgin

LITTLE BEAR Cape Bear, Beach Bear, Bush Bear. I love you Bear.

LIZ-P, There are many things in life that have caught my eye, but only one that has caught my heart - Love JCP.

LIZZIE You struck with me through the bed times, without you life would be unbearable. You are the very air I breathe. 8.3.1 Pits.

LIZZIE All day I dream of playing with Stanley and Hutch. Love always PPP.

LIZZIE, be my West Coast woman, together we'll ride the big surf.

LOMG live our motto "Die of exhaustion not boredom". TYZEN 4 E.

LOOKS THAT make me vibrate, Love that makes me quiver, A friends that wildly excites me, Your body to make me shiver. From Valentine, Rick.

LOP. We adore you, Patch and T.

LORD C You are the most romantic man I love you - Signed Your Biggest Fan.

LORD POOPLEBERG You're still my best special boy. Love, Miss Beaver.

LOVE I love you more than you could ever imagine. Things can only get better and they will. Your Angel.

LORRAINE I pray that with our Fathers blessing our love will grow each day. Love Richard xx

LOTTA I feel the need! the need for a Porsche. Lots of love Jason

LOTTIE My heart it doth complain to want this leather cover so embroidered there by thee. Charlie.

LOVE IS 'The final message' from space. Published book shops today. Pegasus press, author Enal. Read it and help them beat their UFOs lovingly 01825 722378

LOVELY MOM Thanks for the delightful memories. You will forever occupy a special place in my heart. I love you. Rod Stewart.

LOVELY LADY The vests instant that I saw thee, did my heart file to thy service. Loving you always - E

LOVELY Lupin Oh to be a bearsuly babe in your Jardin D'Amour.

LOVE you forever Barbara Rose (with Happy Valentine from you big soldier

LOVE you like crazy, especially since you got the Penguin answer right!

LOVE you for those grey mornings you cuddle me, 'Grumbles', and I feel gorgeous again

LUCIE - I still love you. Alan.xxxxx

LUKE, Happy Valentines Day. Thinking of you always. Oodles of love, Kathryn.

LUMPBUCKET. Well this is my legs and that's my other one.

LYNDA, Eighteen years, you don't get that for murder! Happy Prisoner, Kevin

LYNDA, love you in Green or anything. Forever you and me Sanza.

LYNNE, Thank you for marrying me and making this the happiest day of my life. Love forever, Stuart XXXX

LYNN, happiness, peace, health and wealth. From the bottom of my heart.

M

MARIA You're so easy to laugh with, relax with, be myself with, you're so easy to love. Kmiljelje.xxx

MARIANNE DEARSET Silver was wonderful, lets go for gold - please. Love Ros.

MARIA Desperately missing all your kisses and cuddles - Sleepless in Seattle.

MARIE I love you very much! Hugs and kisses, Martin.

MARION - Thank you for being you and giving such happiness - Love always - K

MARK H. Techno boffin supreme, you are so clever, kind and tall. I love every inch of you, Miss O.

MARTIN In Ite's Melody I've found the missing F. In "Cascade" love will last Forever. Jenny.

MARTIN, with me in so many ways, best friend, lover, husband, father of our boys, boss and lover. I love you. Carol

Mary have some Madness my dear. Love St J

MARY, mum, friend and lover. Always my most precious love. Ghengis Khan.

MASHED POTATO AND MOM - I love you hopelessly and wish you could both be mine. Confidential Boy

MATT - Still suffering from weakness of will! All of my love, U.

MAUREEN - The magic just goes on and on. Let it continue. Allan.

MAUREEN Most favourite lady, with all my love now and always. B.

M. DARL It's a marvellous night for a moondance. Love you always. H.S.S. Hedgie.

M.DARL It's a marvellous night for a moon dance. Love you always. H.S.S. Hedgie

MELLORS, But I'll go in a taxi with you anytime! XXXX

ME loves oy my beautiful valentine, your eyes have put me under your spell. I am yours forever give me a date for Scarborough.

MERMAN So glad we got washed up on the same rock. Mermaid

MICHAEL - I'm not one for demonstrating my affections in public, but I love you so much I feel to tell the world! Susan xxxx

MICHAEL Can't wait until July. We love you very much. Sarah & C or A xxxxx

MICHAEL my one in five billion always. Love Sarah

MIKE All my love today and forever. Lynne XXX

£2,000 MILES is a long way to go to cuddle that you love unconsol! Missing you desperately!!! Tim

MILLIE - when we are not together it falls apart. Love you always and forever - Tom

MISS CLW Oh, to huddle you, you're so swell, your love, CL.

MISS PINGWAH. Hope you had a great Birthday. Love Mr Jazzy Magician.

MISS VALENTINE 1986 - Ryan above my ideal mate. For 20 years I have been the winner. So tonight for you I will cook the dinner

MISS you loads and love you more cos its you that I adore. Love you always Shaun. Love Elisabeth.

MISS you loads and love you more cos its you that I adore. Love you always Shaun. Love Elisabeth. x

MM I love you three ER's and a TR's Triangular T. H.H.

MMM Don't ever forget to tell the ones how much I love you.

MONICA You are the one I care about and think of often, and everytime I do you make me smile.

MONSU Mio grande unico amore ti amo ti desidero. Tanto, tanto, tanto ancora.

MONSEY - Thank you for saying YES. I squish you! - Love always Bunny.

MOOGLIE, through and thinner I love you more each day. Poogle

MOON Thanks for two 'smashing' years! Be mine sometimes. XS/SG Sneeves. Mr.

MORGAN Co-driver wanted. Visit romantic towns. Hire Gatlidonal. Must have entertaining personality. Ring to arrange interview.

MOST PEOPLE sizzle for second best, I won't settle for anything less than you! All my love for ever - J. xx

MOTS May the happiness you bring me be repaid for three when you won't be interested in Belgrade versus Mexico. SPOTS.

MOUSIE The saxe-coloured frond reads the teacher tons of love. DARMOL

MOUSSE adores PHIL squeak squeak.

MOYA drops M, til ni take bigbus. You have captured my heart, my soul and my mind. D.

MR B. I love you. Dashing stanton ready and available. Miss B.

MR C. Waking up next to you makes every day wonderful. Love, Carrot.

MR GROLLY I love you even when you've got a mossy face.

MR H. Accept this gift with all my love although you're rolling away, under and under and think of me this special day!

MR HAPPY One year gone, only another 17 to go! I'm still waiting and I love you more than ever. - BABYBIRD

MR HIPPY Hippy Hip Hop Hippy I love you and want to ...

Mr. P. Tues night tonight. Happy valentines with love Hitmeyers.

"MR PERFECT" you complete me. Love you to the moon...and back. Sxy xpeacks

MR PLUMPY What better place to call the world. I love you? Little Miss Sunshine xx

MR RADCLIFFE Your print is not the extraction it's the Peugeot. 57 days to go and counting. Love you! J xx

MRS CHUBBY I know I have let you down, but don't fall me over. Please give me another chance. BIG Mr Chubby.

MRS D Happy valentines Day. Love from both your sons Peter and John in London. xxx

MRS FOX Sofies Shannons and Bungar. Rilled cuticoses xmas overlasting love. SH.

MS Trellis I'll be your rare and exciting dish, thanks for the Age. Forever Wizzle xxx

MUMMY'S gone all queer, say's she loves you too. Well you're my lovely Daddy, and I love you true. Rachel x.

MUMMY BOO BOO We both love you very much - Papa and Vanity

MUSCAT + Merlot + Bliss + two + seven 'Fleischmanns' = Twelve Years. For love unquenchable thankyou my darling.

MUVVER Sign of the times In The Times. Much lovey from Dorsy.

N With your gift of understanding, and your ability to laugh, I am at best when I should always have been. Eternal love, J.

NAY Clowns - our Once In A Lifetime love will last forever, remember how strong and deep our bottom lies is. I love you now and forever. C.

NAY Darling Gigi. Will always stay together, best friends and lovers. Through old knickers and new knickers, with flooding to match our love has no end. Love David xxxxxxx

NAY DARLING JOAN Our marriage of the last twelve years has been the best twelve years of my life because you simply the best.

NAY Darling Heather you are my perennial flower of love in the temperamous field of life. Love from Michael.

NAY Darling Tiger. Love won't be denied. Bears. Let go. I'll catch you and we'll build our life together. X

NAY darling husband Andrew with much love and fondest memories at this special time of year. Michele Barbes(Poohlins)

NAY darling Boyzi, have I told you lately, well I do, very much and forever your William.

NAY Darling Honey Vivs Last Year's Wedding Bells October 1995, Luv Winnie.

NAY Darling Geoff We make a fantastic team. Let's continue the four forever.

NAY DARLING Stevie, I love you and miss you desperately. I am yours forever. Anne XXX.

NAY DARLING Mr. Cheese, your devoted Miss Pickle will love you forever.

NAY Dearest Sarah it is nice to say that after all these years I still make my Day. Love Kevin.

NAY Dearest and Humpnest Golf Girl. Nills. Love and Velvet from your B.

NAY DELECTABLE Pork Pie. Can I smash you before Pilton Fred. Forever your Pleasure. XXXXX.

NAY FAIR LADY MOLE With much love and more from Moley mate and Pussy.

NAY Fur away love I miss you not long to go. Dannon.

NAY FURRY Honey Bunny You are my Soul Mate, Love Thor Babes and Wabbit.

NAY HEART - Bathtime has never been so much fun! You soap my back and I'll soap yours! BC

NICK LOVES YOU WENDY - did from the start. Be mine forever, because you have my heart.

NICK Simply the best ever.

NICKY Lovely Nicky. Your angelic blue diamond eyes light up my life. Bill.

Nippy Bear Loves his Minky Bear.

N

NANCY Thank you for marrying me. Thank you for our daughter. Thank you for the best years of my life. I love you. Robbie.

Nancy an angel sent from heaven, with an appearance so divine, please be my Valentine, Mr.

NANS Granny Loads of Mulberry leaves. Ottie

NATALIE Slade. Songs of joy and tears of laughter. Be my Bella Embers, love Rene Abbott.

NAUGHTY Jamaican Girl Who can forget London, Leicester and reading? Next stop Rome via reading. xxx

NEARLY Twenty-five years, yet it feels like only yesterday we met, thank you Bags. With love Bags.

NEFERTARI. You are my queen. My kingdom is yours to share. Ramses.

NEFF I wish you were mine, I will love you forever. Maggiesx

NELL. You are still a pain in the neck. All my love Mog.

NETTY. You're still the shirt beneath my wings, how about me demonstrating my three point landing.

NEWS from Wall Street - International Money Maximus (IMM) Love stocks at an all time high, record profits expected at year end. Wabbit Investment Associates.

NEWT - Bathtime has never been so much fun! You soap my back and I'll soap yours! BC

NICK LOVES YOU WENDY - did from the start. Be mine forever, because you have my heart.

NICK Simply the best ever.

NICKY Lovely Nicky. Your angelic blue diamond eyes light up my life. Bill.

Nippy Bear Loves his Minky Bear.

M

M - I love you more and more as each day passes - B.

MACARENA Wishing as many happy years together. Will love you (and your English breakfast) forever. Chris

MACBEAR as wonderful up north as you were down south. All my love, One Tap Roonie

MAC Time the unfortunate divider, true unrivalled love the eternal bond. I love you, Sophie.

MAGGIE The Rose and the Shamrock flower together in my heart. Love Chris

MAGNIFICENT Marzeen curvaceous curio computer whizzo luscious lover I love you Rosco

MAKE Haste to the canteen after the daily queue at the bank. Kick the Aston in the avenues by tower bridge. Meeting room 6 is booked. She loves you - eight years is long enough.

MAMON True love is knocking at your door, it's me, I'm late and I want to come in. Love and kisses forever, Chris xxx

MANDERSTAM - Your love and fidelity keep me warm when we are apart.

MA PUCE Huit Mots a marriage C'est Superbe Je t'aime Beaucoup Tome.

MARCO How's to more sun, sand and snow! All my love Lambsy! BC xxxx

MARGOT 25 years. I don't know how you've stuck it, but I thank God you have. All my love Jon.

MARIANNA still no sweat kiss, no hand held, no sign from you, can I still hope? With aching heart and love from table thirteen.



SAY 'I LOVE YOU' THIS Week end WITH Burberrys OF LONDON

هكذا من الاصل

Valentines

BRITISH MEAT

The Recipe FOR Love

FOR YOUR FREE RECIPE BOOK CALL 01908 23 25 22

BRITISH MEAT

NIKKI I love you more than you could possibly imagine & more than I ever thought possible. All my love, your Valentine, Jase.

NIKKI Where the last week's posted across the 19th it's in Rivoli Miles you, love Clark xx

MOO I ruh you love and kote, love Black xxxx

MORNING! I told you the future would be bright, you believed me, and so it is. You light up my life. All my love, Hilda.

MOT even Ben loved Katie as much as I love you. Very-bear, every, all, always xo 'my Snuggling wumba.

MOT pretty, not discreet, not to blind but fine you on a handful of love

NO WORDS Margaret, My whole heart. Redhab - do-bag your fool named Doug still loves you yet.

NL so happy to be out of the wilderness, your name is tattooed on my heart, love you always, C

NUTTY Nicca I adore ya. Be always mine. Hannah. Always yours. Spazzmas.

NVRSPPL You're killing me softly. Please reconsider. Love you soo much XX to infinity. Always, Mickey.

OH I love you. A Red Rose for your Sweet Rose. Ought.

OH WISE and prudent conveyor I love you. Pod

OLAH! to my wee stinky diddums cutie feet, AKA my wee dudling wife. Happy Valentines Day from your wee honey.

OLGA. Gawdick Transmission Service. To Tatiana To Anno Ich Liebe Mich. Don

ONLY the essential commonplace are afraid of cliches (S Wrigh). See you in Francebbook.

ONE beacon have lost us beyond the sea. So happy we'll be beyond the sun and never again will we go sailing. J A

OUR LOVE makes training warehouses seem like a safe bet. Affectionately CK

OUR love is just as strong after 33 years to Anna Pond.

PAMELA The dream can be real and the longing fulfilled,I'll wait. Love you lots.

PAMELA NEWTON Beloved of CAW Valentine winging home from Caribbean.

PARSEY Whosoever 16's heart has yearnish love of love always Bill

PARSONS Too much is not enough of you. Always and forever. A.

PAOLO, Chesissimo il mio bello mmmm e posta emmozione. Sentivi per favvuore, la nostra storia. Ti amo per sempre. Holly Go-do-lally.

Pat, Mr Bells - Just a gentle reminder to say I love you - Bunny Bob.

PATRICIA Ballintine Ms Dear: A night to remember. Unforgettable Will you always be my night shelter Love Captain Knight Rider.

PATRICIA, My Valentine, My Wife - and to the extra special joy that she bringhng into my life. All my love to you both Howard.xxxxxxxxxx

PATSY The Betsy H.O.B.B.Y. or H.O.B.B.Y.'S always be here for you.

PAULA - Is it the drink or is it my charm that keeps you at "Cold Comfort Farm". Very much love - The Old Git

PAULA Oceans would not separate us, two hearts united in one love by destiny Teddy.

PAUL Finally, there are many things I could dedicate to you. Instead I dedicate my life. All my love, Casablanca

PAUL HOGAN? Forward! The art of cricket? Not Imogen, the greatest gift Australia has given.

PAULINE: If you are the dreamer, - I am what you dream. But when you want to wake, I am your wish — Maynard.

PAUL is naturally devoted to you - Mimsey, it must be love!

PAUL sit with me in the warmth of the moment and let me rest my head on your shoulder. J.

PAUL, the salt of the earth marvel. Love you ever and ever pilot

PELPS now the world knows you're beautiful, I love you I xxx

PENDERS no men ever came across two ideal things. Few come across one. Dr. Earnscendolds.

PERS, I have spread my dreams under your feet, tread softly because you tread on my dreams. Forever my love.

PETAL I live for you.

Pooch, As time unfolds my love for you ripens some more. Pots

PETER X ld gorgeous, you are the sunshine behind my smile. Valentine

PETER - come fly with me - my pilot - my love - be my valentine

PETER I love you. Marina.

PETLAMB JWW. Have a wicked Valentines day. With all my love & kisses HoneyD xxx

PETTIPEE, Fractionskins, Spillikins, mogliskins, lovepuckins, mouldiskins forevermore, mouldiskins intoxication - Spudmuks

PGT I love you more today than yesterday but not as much as tomorrow. Love Bambi.

PHIL - Pet monie in my world - Be Mine! I love you! NIki

PHIL Who threw you? You crept into my life and captivated my heart. Now I know we can never be apart. Love Barbara, xxxx

PHILET Big woolly bear loves you more than ever after twenty years.

Pilot Bear's Daddy loves HARD ROCK'S Mummy very much and thanks her for being a wonderful and beautiful wife.

PILOT Bear with lots of love. Thank you for a wonderful marriage, love hard rock and mimsie XXXX

PIMMS, for my Polkadotalogus Pesky Pig of passion. Pumice pumice to your smouldering Esther.

PLUS one to everything you ever say again, with all my naughty addictions from Dad and Naughty Spice.

PLUS one to everything you ever say again with all my Colchester from dim and naughty spice.

POGSVILLE. You're my pork chop. Pax cuddles. Smiley chops. Sloppy kisses. Piglet.

POOH BEAR - I fell in love with you much time I see you. I love you - and miss you - yours always. The Witch.

POOH Baby - love you more than words can say - Pooh Bear - xxx.

POOH Until I loved, life had no beauty, you are the beauty in my life. BSJF.

POOPS, Presidents may come and go but my love lasts forever.

POPPET! PENNY Another year of married bliss. I think there will be a special kiss, for my best Miss - Miss - actually. Love Raphael.

POPPET! What to pog and prepare on pagan day. Answer? Please? Love pogpet.

POPPET, rediscovering our love has filled my heart with gladness, Love Footie

POPPY But you didn't accept this from Arabic Allah Ya Kel Me.

PORKY SMAZ, my little bit of crisp crackling. Love you - Gravely Grabber

POSSO - Dont go changing. Summer Sundays with Oxo Seedling, Tenacious, Tenacre. all my love always Cuddlycock

POSPOSME, Lovee, my all red "woman". Be my Valentine. Sexy Bum.

PG sweet heart it's very clear what of what dube billet affair affect our love is here to stay. Amanda.

POTA Amitpal potty purpose - Love you Betty Ghosh Pagal bright adore your and Narinder thinks a world of you.

POUR Laurent tous mes voeux de remains avec smiles et affection.

PRECIOUS GEMS, I adore you and the kicking does too. Love Aubergines

PRE-EMPTION, Rosebud M.

PRETTY LADY I want to romance you forever, love is yes, love is me, love is us - Soul mate

PRINCESS, Our ninth year will be the best, it gets better and better. You're an angel and I love you loads. Your Pinkie Winkie.

PRINCESS Laurean all my love on Valentine's day from your Ginger Prince.

PRINCESS In Portobello or Empress in Ealing it's still passion in Paris. Love you M.

PRINCESS F - to us my love, forever and ever. All my love yours exclusively, Special Exec

PRINCESS S My closet is always open, love from the man in the fuzzy bear T-shirt.

PRINCESS Darling your greatest admirer. Taime a la folie toujours toujours toujours.

PRINCESS You have my heart. Tell me when you want what's left.

PROVIDOR, all roads lead Dunblane XXVI Leagues 111 days Month Londinium Conquistadores.

PT Still haunted. SD

Q

QUAD BYPASS May have saved me, but your love saw me through.

QUESNEA, Amigo, Darling, Friend, Love Forever! I thee wed. Your Jerry.

R

R.D. Your black hair and sexy smiles are hotter than Vindaloo. Madly deeply love you S.P.F.

RACHEL Duty your highest power and ID Love you completely.

RAH BOOS The thought of a boson to boson with you keeps my fluxes alight.

RAHV Love and longing for over thirty years and forever ja t'adore.

RED LADY, red roses, often empty, often roses, I'll love you loads and loadses.

478 remember 2242 at the Ritz and 1630 on the eighteenth 252.

REMEMBERED...The boy from the North loves the girl in the South. All my love Northern Blake.

RENAN, All I know is the sun and it's shining. Cartel Jason.

RENEETAGE I will love you till the day I die and forever. To the moon and back. Le glad go date. Boo.

RIB, Don't kiss my nose or I'll get spots on it. RD

RICHARD The one I love too much but can't love less.

RITA Don't care what they say about you. I think you're alright. Love always Michael.

ROBERT, Don't let the ceiling fall in on us. Wish we could do it again. Love The Hot Chick.

ROB Even though I am far away I thought I'd write this line, to say I think the world of you so be my Valentine.

ROBIN Happy Valentines Day to my gorgeous blue-eyed Adonis, love always, B Bunny.

ROBIN Thankyou for a wonderful year, let's make this last forever. Monkey.

ROCK STAR Never dull - "The dolce of my life" H.W. Jo x x x x x x x x x x.

RO - I like snuggle wuggle down time best of all. Long may it continue. Love and kisses from Mr Woof.

ROSE I will love you forever, on this earth and beyond. JH.

ROSE, It doesn't get much better than this! With love Sydney.

ROSEMARY, 168577's, but yours the most important. Lots of xxx's, M.

ROSES are red, kitchens are blue, Paula: The Saw, loves Licence Boo.

ROSES ARE RED Violets are blue, I love you Vicky and will always be true.xx

S

S.A.W. Pain in 1997, was just heaven, Heaven in 1998, I just can't wait. C.S.F.

S.A.W. Love times 5 years, 1 month and 2 days. Well it's a start! Blokie.

S.H. For the dreams we have together, my commendo-fusion, love you always G.S.

S.H my heart will always belong to you. I love you. E.H.

SALLY, My wonderful wife, my lover, my friend, we've been then a couple, we merge and become as one, in love, till the end. Your fit man. 50009072

SALLY PET - I know I'm ugly but I've got other qualities. Love Bunny B.

SALLY Pet - I know I'm ugly but I've other qualities love Bunny B.

SALLY In loving you, I love the best the world has to give. A.M.L. Barry

SALLY I loved you from the first and always will. Jeffrey.

SAM I Love You more than ever. Thanks for being so special. Keep on running. GZ.

SAMINA I love you loads not just today but forever love ASIF xxxx.

SAM may love your tittits but I love all your bits. M xxxxx

SAMMY - BABE You are so beautiful to me. Love always Doctor Grumpy and Jasper xxxxx

SAM, the tooth is that eye am crazy about you. Happy 1st valentines Love Always Matilda

SAM True love is found once in a lifetime. This I have found in you.

SANDRONALEX We love you. We believe in you. Miss you. Dad Barry.

SANDRA thank you for still walking in step with me from your Knuckle Tonglole teacher.

SANDRA, my love is forever in thought word and deed, Piglet.

SARAH, Ten times now I've written words here to remind you that I hold you dear. Now I love you both, you and Libby. Alan.

SARAH you are always my princess I love you more than ever please let's try again Jonathan your tad.

SARAH What kiss could be so sweet, delicious, and sensual? I am addicted! You are my heroine

SARAH LEE I want to see you fanTo see you fly above the clouds. And be there to catch you if you fall

SARAH Department - nearly one years were we "pushed by the school"? Love whatever the reception, Bx

SARAH MOSEY Always, always, always, always, always, always, always, always. Love Steve

SARAH KATE I love you are inadequate words to say I love you - Tuans Room

SARAH JORDAN Happy Valentines Day! Love You Forever. Come On! Love JH

SARAH, you've made me the happiest man on Earth. I love you.

SARAH The fairest 3 years of my life. Thankyou. Love Tony.

SASHA LLOYD You thought I was only one way but you were wrong. Be my Valentine Love Rupert E.

SAUIS Pas moyen sily loves you as always. Love from sheeky chops

SCARLET LANCER My darling. Forever you and me. Always yours, love Matt.

S come out of the world with me. Love B

SCOTTIE - With all love, in all ways and always from your pinkness and unsmidgin annoyns Englishman.

SCOTTISH-wildcat, I love you one million and nine oodles, forever Lion.

SCRAM BIG I love you more than words can say. Champagne Kisses.

SCUZZY Come nestle with me in duvet land, not Never-Never land. See ya!

SEX GODDESS Your puppy dog will always be there waiting for just another minute.

SEXY BOY, Gerrrr, Gerrrr, Gerrrr, Gerrrr, Gerrrr Gerrrrr Cannon and Vixen

SEXY SUE PENNINGTON I'm flying so high, I love you so much! Gianni X.

SHAKER DRAKER Clattercom girl. Lucie's candles burning bright when Amadeus turned tiddlypom you became a Hippychic moon-mad back. Le glad go date. Boo.

SHE, Don't kiss my nose or I'll get spots on it. RD

SHONARD The one I love too much but can't love less.

SITA Don't care what they say about you. I think you're alright. Love always Michael.

SOMEST, Don't let the ceiling fall in on us. Wish we could do it again. Love The Hot Chick.

SOS Even though I am far away I thought I'd write this line, to say I think the world of you so be my Valentine.

SOSSIDGE - Come back and stay for good this time. All love, Kaz xx.

SPACEMAN. Hope our rocket lasts as long as the Duracell Bunny. Hairbear.

SPADE I love these from you know who, and these three!

SPANDREAD, Sex-Goddess, sticky little pet, you're my best Valentine yet Peter.

SPARKIE Valentine remember the cupboard at college? This year marks twenty five years wed and it's still good. Love you, Mrs Mars Bar.

SPECIAL K Happy anniversary, 4 years and I love you more than ever. P. xxxx

SPECIAL thoughts for you today and hope that you will always stay.

SPEEDY missing you, looking forward to LA Manga 2 love JB

SPHINX I am on the pinnacle of love, your Nefer Pet.

SPLODGE, Shining bright, you light up our lives. Love Annie & Alexade. XX

SPLODGE, Let us permanently unalloy in bliss' eternal quagmire of love - Piglet

SPRING flower will soon see everything blooming again just like 1969!

SQUIRRELS? I see no squirrels, I love you more today than yesterday!

STAY while ye will; or go, and leave no scent behind ye yet, Sheila, I shall know the place where I may find ye.

STEF Here's to adding another little one to our wonderful family - Bobbie

STEPHEN You're my best and soul, sun moon and stars. Love Siobhan

STEPHEN my darling, I love you now and I will love you forever, be mine forever. Zoe XXX

STEVE HERBERT I love you more than I could ever show and I love you more than you'll ever know.

STEVE 1997 was brilliant, but the best has yet to come! Yours Jill xx

STEVE C. Love ya always! Bear Hugs from the Boyz Blondie.

S THANKYOU for ten wonderful years. All my love C.

STICKY Poo, I love you, bolted with botty-xxxxxxx

STILL as unsmoothy as ever. I hope you'll be my Snoozy in Lacey! on Valentines night. From your Snuggly Snuggly-xxx.

STILL my little Calabone after all our years together love.

STRONG was your love like the Mersey. Never mind I tried it all. None the less I love you beyond my failure.

STUBBINS Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, let me get my hands on you. Love (Dirk)xxx.

SUCH music with my own CD and our magic carpet, love PKE.

SUE and Stuart, my best friends, love you lots, D and D.

SUE As ever I never want to be without you. Love Derek.

SUE Fly with me in my balloon or did you find the pendant was appen.Hoff I love you forever D.

SUE - How do you fancy Toad in the Hole? Lots of love - Andy.

SUE, In thoughts of you I'll spend my days now and always. My vows of love and flames in my heart will burn until the end of time keeping our vows. Lovingly Mr Constables

SUE - It's getting bigger everyday. I love you. Nigel XXXXXXX

SUE - This valentine message is meant to you in Hex, I can't wait to marry you - Love Dai

SUE You're the light in my dark tunnel of life. F.

SUGAR Plum Fairy. Hamstedly miserable without you. Lester Pollover before Easter. I love you. Real Boy.

SUNDANCE PIG - Let's escape together from your Tamworth boar.

SUNSHINE from Sandown to country. Crabby

SUPPLY fulfils love's return.

SUSAN My heart has been captured by the love that lays in yours, and I never want to escape it. Always, Pat.

SUSAN Marion Vivienne Pauline we all love you. Poor man's Frugal Valentine.

SUSAN A special stargazer. Don't forget I love you. Remember the whistle blue.

SUSAN love you lots miss you lots can't wait till April Cowboy.

SUZZIE With love on this day and always. Here's to our wedding on August 8th. Jonning.

SUZY Sunshine, the sun looks down in jealous gaze at nature's fairest child, we've lost our hearts in love's sweet maze, destinye unwrine Tiger.

SUZY WOO I love you and little boo and coo. Arnie

SWEETIE PIE: Here we are in 98 it may be near but it's not too late for the rest of us to be as before the next millenium. All my love, Spuddykins.

SWEETIE I dream of you when asleep and long to see you when awake. You are my candid, my love, my joy. Kevin xxxxxxx

SWEET Happy Valentine's Day to Pinky and Perky from Bale and Mouse. Kisses for all.

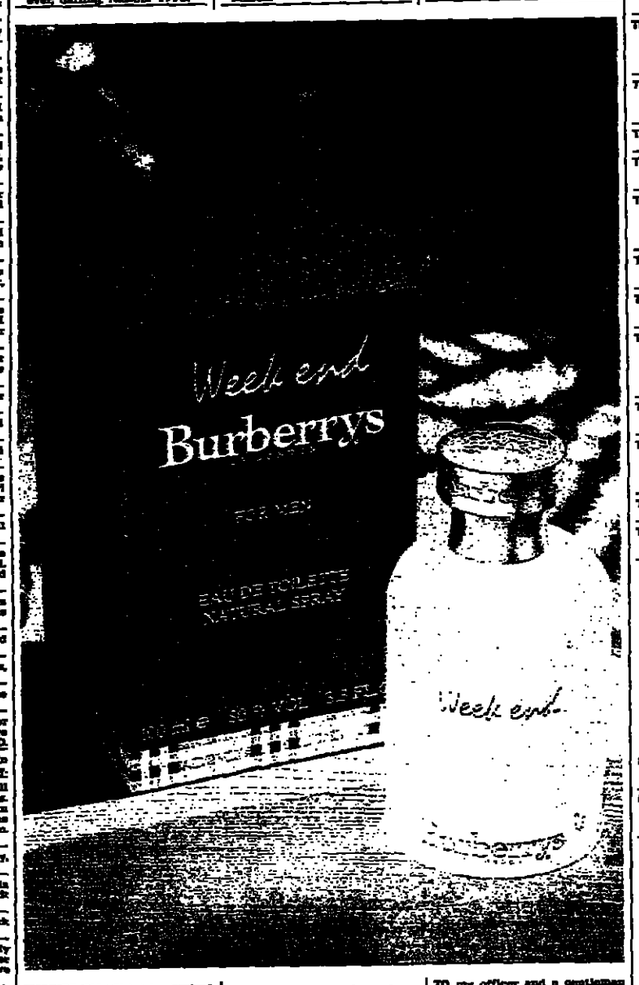
SWEETYPOPS, Love you lots and lots and lots and lots and lots for ever. Douglas. XXXXXXX

SWEET 'P' All my love, hugs, kisses and then some! Mighty Mouse.

SWIM with me my darling and we shall share the taste of salt from your lips.

SYB - Happy Valentine's day, I shall be thinking of you. Love Chdy

SYLVIA I love you very much but most of all you are my special friend. Dominic.



THE BIRD IN HAND Pah, Davidard. - I love and miss you!! XXXX The Chaldman

THE GIFT of life did then become love when I first set my eyes upon you.

THERES no secret like a private one he who laughs last laughs the loudest. Love you.

THERESA You're the one that I want now and forever - Love Alan

THE SPARK you kindled has burnt into a flame which lights my whole life before me.

THE WINE Hope to catch up with our very cheeked boys at some point, even if it is further down the road. HUBBY

THIS Year even more, Diana my Darling Byrd I Love You, Michael.

THOU, Anjin-San, This is a magic thing, I kneel with with us. I desire thee. Martho-San.

THOUSH Mark may take me away with the other man in my life; I love the thought of coming home to you, I love being your wife.

THREE THREE a lady - Third time lucky - Thankful for ten years together.

THROUGH fifty years you have become light of my life beloved one.

T I G and more so as you grow older. Lavender always

TIGERCUB love always from your Shagdog 2

TIGER. Do I love you? Certainly do Mr B! Love always, Redhead.

TIGER, I believe in miracles, tigger

TIGGER'S DAD - Remember Goodwood. Love you loss. Sybil's Mum aka wet and wicked. Yum Yum XXXXX

TIGGER: Thanks for that precious thing which is precisely beyond words, Bunny

TIGGER loves Mrs Tigger. Promises to try to be good Tigger for ever

TILL China and Africa meet, my love R, and little friend R.

TIMEE are right to publicly display my love and affection - Numero Uno

TIMEE are right to publicly display my love and affection - Numero Uno.

TINA, I Love you. Adore you. More than my car! - 'Zo Sexy'.

TINA 72 hours with you is worth wasting a lifetime for. The more I know you the more I love and adore you.

TINKERBELL, happiness is just being part of you, loving you forever, James.

TITCH I can't wait until I can announce my pulvelegal. Love J.

TO Davina, wishing you a happy Valentines Day lots of love, Kevin.

TODAY is the beginning of forever. Happy wedding day Jake, Love Emma.

TO Donna-Marie, I will love you forever and always, love Alex.

TO GILL OWENS Thanks for the good times, love grows daily, be my Valentine.

TO Holly Ann from your very own ever loving teddy bear Peter.

TO HONEY from Pookey. All the sand on the seashore.

TO JAY - All my love from your Babe Girl!

TO love so well so long is rarely seen. Yet such Paradise have I shared with you Kathleen.

TO N.B. You really are " the works", now and always your B.A. boy.x

TO MAGICO My little cherry blossom girl. With much love, Roddy.

TOM, "best image of myself and denser hair" 118 days!

TO "Mein Liebling" Anne Jackson I love you. Jacob

TO Miss SLD malicus caeruea in re tecerta cassitur thanks for ter scented offs and friendship yours platonically P

TO Mr K. Mouse have bondingshino chrisa from Mr Mouse.

TO Mum Mum S: I love you forever from your dearest baby.

TO MY beloved Stinky-Winky: Quoique tu fasses, Beaucoup love Mousy. Schnobbin' Hebt Zwobernous. Bonne Fleche Mouse.

TO my bit of rough. Thanks for two lovely years, your Snuggleboo.

TO MY dearest darling Debbie. Here's to MANY more Valentine's Days. Lots of love, Phil. XXXXX XXXX XXXXX

TO my darling this is our eighth Valentines Day together, here's to the next eight. All my love Joy Dee

TO my dearest wife Maria-Jose I'll always love you with my warmest thought of you this valentine. I give you Rosberry

TO my dear Pat, this love of mine is all for you, my only Valentine.

TO My Darling Jan - You are, and always will be, my Valentine. With love from A.

TO my Darling Genuine Article. You and me - like peas and carrots.

TO my darling Donna. Fill my heart with your Love to let it beat once more.

TO my darling Camilla, I love you heaps. Love always xxxxxx Bob

TO my fizzle celtic beauty and scottish wildcat, lets sail away to the isles - Chatty's Dad

TO MY best best, from your cuz and alice. Happy Valentines day my Darling. Many loves you

TO my little Angel. Thank you for another wonderful year of love and support. Loving you and being loved by you are my happiness in equal measure. With all my best love, Dave.

TO my Linds who means more to me than life. My treasure, my love, my Valentine. All my love, Terry.

TO My little piglet Ruthie, Love from you old boar Abscard!! Oink xxx.

TO my love who's a flower that's beginning to bloom. Forever xxxx

TO my little bear, Lizzy, all my love Fidi xxx

TO my lovely wife Jane Bean, I love you (and you) Mafa

TO my monster Emma TP, I love you and miss you, from your shimmer TT.

TO MY Minzie Moo, "Sesapo mucho para y siempre!" From your Whippy Woo XX

TO my officer and a gentleman with love from your Florence Nightingale.

TO my other half always remember a white house in fields of gold

TO My Princess whose beauty eclipses those of angels. Be my Valentine again. Love never dies.

TO MY Pilsbury Dough Boy get your it on!!! Love always, Liz XXX

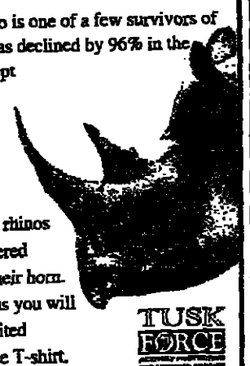
TO my sleeping beauty whenever whatever wherever, yours forever Mrankit

TO my Schmoo I will love you forever from Poolface Malolgon.

ADOPT A BEAUTIFUL 35 TONNE BOY.

Forget flowers and chocolates, chose a different gift for your loved one for Valentine's Day- adopt a beautiful 35 tonne boy.

Jay the black rhino is one of a few survivors of a species which has declined by 96% in the last 26 years. Adopt Jay for only £20 through the charity Tusk Force and you will be helping to protect rhinos from being butchered by poachers for their horn. As an added bonus you will also receive a limited edition Tusk Force T-shirt.



TUSK FORCE

For your adoption pack: call Tusk Force on 0345 414 616.

U

UPON your sleeping face a kiss of love that asleep. Dreaming dreams of dreaming love

US My darling Rococo ferociously elegant deliciously defined Oeuvre. Lovingly yours, YS.

V

VALARIE. Every day brings a new smile. I love you and Harry. Yesterday, Today and tomorrow.

VALENTYNE - From "The Times" to "The New York Times". The Times of my life are forever with you.

VALENTINE May have Les Plus Jolies Poems but it's better darling that I have Les Plus Jolies Tytoos, love Marilyne.

VALERIE SUE I still love you. Married you after I got to know and like you, then to Love you.

V BAD for ever! But when? SULMU I love you. P

VEENA you are my heart beat - Love you - Kannan

VIC Birds, although I'm not there, you know that you'd still definately GET IT! Love Bazza xxx.

VICKY - We all love you from your boys, Howard, Adrian, & Steve and the little special one. XXXXXX

VICKY, it still hurts, the pain just doesn't seem to go, you will always be in my heart.

VICTORIA "Scamp" Hewitt - A poucine message from your one true pordue. I swall always love you. Hugs & swishes, Stephen.

VIDU Happy Valentines Day. I love you! Thane and back again.

VIRGINIA My lover, best friend and wife, beautiful woman in my life. 11 years of living together, our love goes on forever and forever!

W

WANTED - House Tigger. Duties to include love, laundry, quiches and cuddles. Generous comic allowance. Apply to Kanga c/o The Burrow.

WO INI TAI TAI

WANTED:- Returning Wisconsin nephrologist for exhilarating ride in Barchetta with passionate Atlanta Blonde still in love

WARM MILDie can we swim off to Antarctica? It's cooler than Sonova. Frankl. Love cool Willie.

WE You're my sunshine on a cloudy day and I'll love you always come what may. BN.

WE hunt across all Exmoor, and I love my dear Doris so, but I love my little girlie more, today and everyday xo XXX

WELLS Filled with kisses give buckets full of love, my bucket is overflowing. Keswick

WE may have new labour but old love still remains vintage.

WENDY From cheese and wine get pardons. This year its Susan's Club Gardens. AMI. Dave.

WENDY KIRKBRIGHT. Twenty years too late, please be my wife. Barberry man.

WENDY Lets escape the hell of our ship of love. Bottoms up for a smooth passage.

WHAT was a dream will now come true as I begin my life with you. Charles.xx PS Alex. My love forever, you and I

WHEN we first met eyes to brain beauty, ears to brain music, arms to brain joy, heart to brain, I love your forever forever.

WHEN you wear your leather, (a snake) feel like the wild heather. Let's stick together and make it last forever!

W - I love you now and will always love you - R xxx

WINKY WOO I ish U wiv all my heart Milwton Lubs Gee.

WITH forever love and devotion, your always loving and loyal caring husband.

WITH lots of love to Sooty Smudge and Noah. Have a great 1998. Love from Mickbix

WOBBLY SPICE you've got a man not a boy who thinks he can do old spice.

WONDROUS we are alone, together we stand not alone, our hearts each other will own. Dilip.

WOOFS, you are the very best woofer there is. Row, row. With a heart full of love, Woofernine.

X

XXXX Big Ted loves little Ted for keeping his tootsies toasty XXXX

Y

YOU are as beautiful today as when we first met. I cannot wait to see you again Mary All my love Paul

YOU are my love, and will always be. The only woman ever for me. All my love Steve.

YOU ARE here today more special to me everyday darling. And I love you so. Annick

YOU belong to me, in this life there's no other one...loving you, Pauline xxx.

YOU have given me your love; I return it with interest, sweetheart.

YOU may have webs, you may be green, you may even be a bit of an old smelly but I still love you

YOUR ability to make me sly is one of the reasons I adore you but love is the spirit that grows and motivates us. Mo xxxx

YOU'RE MY Mr Wonderful Life wouldn't be the same without you. Love you forever Graham. with all my heart, Sarah.

YOUR KISS, your caress, oh how I sigh, you mind, your body. No I can't deny. S.S. Alex. My love forever, you and I

YOUR love is boundless, my love is just pure, be my valentine Carpe Diem My Cheer! Amore

YOU'VE brought the smile back to my face, You make my heart beat such a pace. One glance from you, my knees go weak, I'm overwhelmed, I cannot speak. (Just in case you've lost the plot, I'm saying I love you quite alot!) A hopeless case in fact I'd say, I love you more and more each day. I've lost my heart, Clive, my you're mine, And that you'll be my Valentine.

YOU were late for our first date. Scared to take you home, embarrassed of my silicone. That's past, now something new.. I love you

YVETTE, in the sun, in the rain, even choosing kitchens. I will always Love You. Big Nose.

YVONNE "How like a winter hath my absence been from Thee ..." Still thinking of you lovingly - H.S.

Z

ZELF Happy Birthday! Happy Valentines! Happy Anniversary! I Love You, Helen xxxx

ZIL Selwonk your kisses are in big demand everywhere Picky Noo-Noo Grotbod

ZOE Meet you just past Colin's house. All my love - Ash.

ZULU Lover, you have captured my heart. I Love You. Miz Bazzy.

ZZZZZZ, Crash out with me in LV Will Poppy behave himself? Fly me I'm yours in a King size bed - Love you, Spider



Have a Heart on Valentine's Day

Aitong is an orphan elephant. She had been separated from her herd when only a few weeks old and was found alone in the Kenyan bush.

By fostering Aitong for a loved one this Valentine's Day, you will help to provide the milk, food, medical attention and loving care that she needs and also give aid to elephant conservation worldwide.

For just £24.95 you will receive a fostering gift pack containing:

- A colour photograph of Aitong
- A personalised fostering certificate
- A VHS video of all the orphans
- A fostering window sticker
- An update after six months
- An exclusive Valentine's Day card

The gift pack is available individually (without a donation) for £5.95

"On my recent trip to Kenya, I was quite simply overawed by the work Daphne Sheldrick and Care for the Wild International are carrying out on behalf of the orphan elephants."

Noel Edmonds

Care for the Wild International,
1 Ashfolds, Horsham Road, Rusper,
West Sussex, RH12 4QX.
Telephone (01293) 871596
E-mail: info@careforthewild.org.uk

Reg Charity 286802

Yes! I would like to adopt Aitong the orphan elephant.

Person making payment: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ____ Address ____ Postcode ____

Person named: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ____ Address ____ Postcode ____

Please send pack to: The foster parent ☐ The person making payment ☐

I enclose a cheque/postal order ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Visa/Amex/Mastercard No ____

Expiry Date ____ Extra donation £ ____ Total £ ____

For more information about Care for the Wild International please tick here ☐

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Care for the Wild International

SAY 'I LOVE YOU' THIS Weekend WITH Burberrys OF LONDON

Burberrys

هكذا من الاصل

The British spend £22 million on flowers for Valentine's Day. Just how do florists deliver, asks **Stephen Anderton**

My love is like a red red rose

HULTON GETTY



What price love? Red roses fetch 20 per cent less than other roses throughout the year

By tonight it will be all over. The girls will be happy. Tribute will have been paid. The annual red-rose madness will be at an end. Florists will collapse with a stiff drink, for Valentine's Day is their recurring but lucrative nightmare. Imagine any other business in which — worldwide — everyone wants the same highly perishable product on the same day with which to proclaim their undying love.

Why do we do it? What is so special about red roses? It's not as if red roses are very exciting in February. Florists' red roses are bred for stem length, and have no perfume. But what the man thinks the lady wants, he gets. So in Holland massive numbers are grown under glass and artificial light. They flood in from Israel, Kenya, South Africa, India, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. In Europe and America and Australia everyone wants red roses.

In Russia, real men bring their loves huge red roses at any time of year, with massive heads on stems a yard long, and only the very best, shipped in from Colombia. The Englishman prefers a modest red rose, with tight little buds on 60cm stems.

It's the redness that counts. A single red rose, apparently, says it all. Knightsbridge man will happily spend £50 on a gift of discreet, perfumed, pale spring flowers for Valentine's Day, but will still "sign" it with a single red rose laid across the top from You Know Who. Knightsbridge spendthrifts with a girl to win will lash out on three or four dozen red roses. And they can cost as much as £7.50 a stem.

So what makes red roses so expensive? Not so much the international temperature-controlled transport — many flowers have that. They all need handling, grading, quality control and packaging, like all other perishable goods. But with red roses there is a buying frenzy in the wholesale markets, starting just a few days before the flowers can safely be bought and expected to last.

Flower prices rise for Valentine's Day because of the certain high demand. And because We All Want Red Roses, they go higher still. We pay the price for knowing, without any shadow of a doubt, that The Lady Wants Red Roses and nothing else. Contract growers who sell direct to packing companies still have to get a high price for investing in a crop which, at other times of year, fetches 20 per cent less than any other colour of rose.

So why not ask her this evening if a red rose is what she really wants next year. How about something exotic? Orchids from Thailand? Or perhaps stunning gerberas from Israel or tulips in every colour under the sun — including red?

LOVE FACTS

- The British spend £22 million on Valentine's Day flowers. Seven million red roses are sold here, and 50 million worldwide.
- Red roses of average size and quality should cost £2.50-£3 per stem this year. The biggest and best may rise to £7.50 per stem.
- Supermarkets are selling a dozen red roses for about £30. The price through Interflora is £40.
- Red flowers will all be expensive this weekend. Dutch red tulips may rise from £6 to £10 for ten.

HOW SEVEN MILLION RED ROSES ARRIVE FOR FEBRUARY 14



* Decreasing trade
↔ Increasing trade
** No change

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

HOMES & GARDENS

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

COUNTAX
Loads more Value!



POWERED BY BRIGGS & STRATTON

Spring is upon us and now is the time to secure a real bargain when buying Britain's Best Selling Garden Tractor. Select any Countax tractor complete with the Powered Grass Collector and your participating Countax dealer will arrange for you to receive invaluable extras normally sold for £533.

SPECIAL OFFER*
FREE Dump Truck worth £325.00
FREE three year warranty £129.00
FREE Security Clamp worth £79.00
Buy before March 1st SAVE £533

*Offer of by-pass bagging models only on new Countax Tractors fitted with Collectors. The offer is at dealers discretion and is subject to Terms and Conditions

Send for this brochure and address of local participating dealer
To: Countax, FREEPOST, Great Haseley, Oxford OX44 7BR T208
Name
Address
Postcode Tel
FREE 0500 279927

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE
ESCALLONIA...
• EVERGREEN HEDGE
• BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
• TOUGH & HARDY – EVEN ON COASTAL AREAS

A new introduction from us, Escallonia will quickly grow into a lovely 6' – 8' hedge that will not only give you a profusion of exquisite flowers (delicate pink buds opening to white) from summer to early autumn, their beauty heightened with their setting against dark green glossy leaves...but will also give you an excellent evergreen windbreak – proof against intruders and the elements and giving privacy to your home.
Plant Escallonia 18" apart to form a tough and hardy hedge that will grow in any soil in either sun or shade, will tolerate drought and will readily establish on seaside locations. Take advantage of our introductory prices.
POST YOUR ORDER NOW!
5 for £13.75
10 for £25.50
20 for £47.50
P&P £2.25 on any order
BRAMLEY'S NURSERIES (TT7)
331 BEFLEET ROAD • SOUTH BEFLEET • ESSEX
GALLERY WELCOME OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

SCATTER
Clears Cats
from your garden
NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY
Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and patios
Not Affected by Weather

Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic – no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.
"Scatter is the only one that works" Classic FM Gardeners Forum, 11th April 1997
SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will NO affect on birds or other pets INAUDIBLE to humans. Scatter is completely safe. Installed in minutes.
Try it for 90 days - 5 year guarantee
FREEPHONE 0800 282824 FOR FREE BROCHURE
CLEARFLOW LTD, 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE
Tel: 01488 687606 Fax: 01488 685411 TRADE and OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed

GARAGES – SPECIAL PRICES
PLUS BETTER CHOICE & QUALITY
BETTER GUARANTEE
BETTER SERVICE
MAINTENANCE FREE
AND FREE DELIVERY
FOR FREE BROCHURE 24 HOURS 01295 770873
or write to: Compton Buildings Ltd. Dept. G808 FREEPOST (LO6) Fenny Compton, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV33 0BR
MARKET LEADERS Compton

HEDGING & YOUNG TREES
Over 180 varieties, plus fruit, ground cover and climbers
Catalogue request line 01280 822505
Tel: 01280 813556
Fax: 01280 815481
Buckingham Nurseries
72 Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE

WATCH OUT THIEVES ABOUT



GUARDIAN SECURITY SHUTTERS HELP KEEP YOUR HOME & POSSESSIONS SAFE & SOUND

Fitted to your windows and doors they are the ideal deterrent for thieves or intruders. No wonder over 25 million homeowners throughout Europe are now enjoying the peace of mind Security Shutters can bring. Fully fitted by our team of installers in a choice of colours, either electronically or manually operated... they are the ideal solution for home security.

- Made from tough, high Security, maintenance - free aluminium.
- Durable stove-enamelled finish. Available in a range of colours.
- Fully installed by Guardian's own highly skilled craftsmen.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING
01484 461010 NORTH 0171 581 4443 SOUTH
OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION
FREEPOST - SEND TODAY - NO STAMP REQUIRED
Post to: GUARDIAN SECURITY SHUTTERS, FREEPOST, HF3 118, HUDDERSFIELD, HD3 3LL
MR/MRS/MS
TELEPHONE
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TT1402
GUARDIAN YOUR PROPERTY PROTECTOR

ONLY £95 DEPOSIT*
"Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust, and I recommend them to you" DAME THORA HIRD



special offer
Phone now free! and Churchill's will give you a 30 day money back guarantee*
• Installation often within 3 days • Most stairs fitted • Value guaranteed
Call Churchill's 0800 371 982
Call FREE now and ask for Christine, Clare or Jane for a FREE home consultation 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-6PM
Nationwide 7 day service
Churchill's Stairlifts plc THE STAIRLIFT EXPERTS
*applies only to new straight flights

TERENCE CUNEO OBE, ORE, RCE 1907 – 1996
The Final Catalogue of Signed Limited Editions



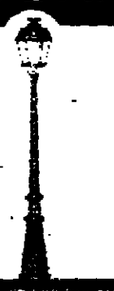
Choose from twenty-two magnificent subjects. Each print is individually signed by the late artist. Prices from £75 to £175.
For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818 Fax 0171 935 5720

You can have the extra space you need, and ready in just weeks.



• For guests
• Home offices
• Studios
• Games rooms
phone 0118 966 9236 today!
Norwegian Log

Petite France



Lanterns from only £78.00 inc. VAT + delivery. Column and Lantern as shown from only £595.00. For information and a colour brochure and price list TELEPHONE: 01773 590977 (Quality Reproduction U.K. Ltd.)
13

WARWICK BUILDINGS
Winter Discounts
• STUDIOS
• SUMMERHOUSES
• WORKROOMS
• GARAGES
• STABLING
(Please specify which brochure)
SHOW SITE - SOUTHAM ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON, NR RUGBY WARWICKSHIRE CV23 8GL
TEL: 01926 815757
FAX: 01926 815162

DRINK PURE CLEAN WATER
use AQUA-SURE
a home water treatment system that's much better for your health!
• It keeps your tap water clear, free from unhealthy chemicals • Gives water that tastes and smells fresh at less than ½p per litre • Saves on the cost and inconvenience of buying bottled water • Is healthier, cleaner and more efficient than a jug filter • Simple to install and effective in your kitchen.
Information on how to keep healthy water for your family to drink

Quality Bulbs Established Supplier
SNOWDROPS IN THE GREEN
Single Snowdrops £3.50 per 50 and £6.50 per 100
Double Snowdrops £4.50 per 50 and £8.50 per 100
Winter Daffodils £5.00 per 20
Snowflakes £5.00 per 10
All bulbs freshly lifted for each order. Please add £1 towards p&p.
Cheques & postal orders to: A.Brown, A.B. Nurseries, Dept TT, 27 Westwood Avenue, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2SL.
Tel: 01945 465310

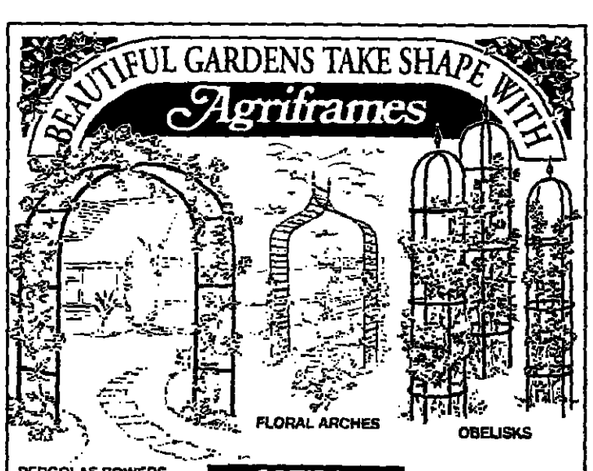
BLOOMS of Bressingham
Marvellous Meconopsis
2 plants for £5.95

Meconopsis has large, sky-blue flowers which contrast beautifully with their golden centres. They are valued largely for their clear blue colour which gives them a delicate appearance.
These exquisite perennials are often likened with the poppy flower, and the variety on offer, betonicifolia, is also known as the 'Himalayan Blue Poppy'.
Blooming in early summer, they can reach up to 1.2m in height, preferring a sheltered position with light shade in lime-free soil.
Our collection of 2 Meconopsis is available priced at only £5.95 including delivery.
The plants will arrive in 9cm diameter pots, ready for planting straight out into your garden, following our horticultural instructions provided.
Despatch will be throughout April and May. All orders will be acknowledged.
Offer subject to availability



GUARANTEE
• We underline our commitment to service, quality and variety by offering twelve month's guarantee on all our plants.
• Price includes delivery.
• You can return within 14 days for a full refund or replacement if not completely satisfied.
BLOOMS of Bressingham
01245 326004
24 hour credit card order service
Meconopsis Offer, Blooms of Bressingham, Mail Order, Admail 965, (Bressingham), Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2BR.
We deliver to all addresses in the UK including Northern Ireland. Offer subject to availability. 240 TIMEC2
Please send me: ____ Collection(s) of 2 Meconopsis @ £5.95 each, inc. del.
Name:
Address:
Postcode:
I enclose crossed cheque/postal order (address on back) for £ ____ made payable to Blooms of Bressingham or debit my Mastercard/Visa card by £
Card No: Expiry Date:
Orders to: MECONOPSIS OFFER, BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM, Mail Order, Admail 965 (Bressingham), Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2BR.
Blooms of Bressingham Mail Order is a division of DIRA Direct Ltd. If you do not wish to receive future offers from companies approved by DIRA Direct Ltd, please tick here
Reg. Address: DIRA Direct Ltd, 23 Normanton Road, South Ippodrome Estate, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6BA. Reg. No. 2949139
240 TIMEC3

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE WITH Agriframes



FLORAL ARCHES
OBELISKS
PERGOLAS, BOWERS, GAZEBOS & WALKWAYS
SCREENS AND PANELS
NEW 1998 CATALOGUE
Send NOW for your FREE copy featuring Agriframes structures plus hundreds of the best gardening products and ideas.
To: Agriframes Ltd., Brochure 4878 Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HP
Name
Address
Postcode
FREE CATALOGUE 01342 310000 (24HRS) FAX: 01342 310099

هكذا من الاصل

Plot that's all present and correct

ME AND MY GARDEN: ROGER SAUL

SVEN ARNSTEIN



Roger Saul with Monty in the knot garden, just one of the many features designed by the Mulberry boss. Most of the gifts the couple now give to each other are for the garden



Roses ramble in the pergola

His wife Monty calls him "Mellors". When asked to enlarge on this, Roger Saul, the founder and chief executive of Mulberry, the luxury goods empire, says it denotes his lowly position in the garden, as clearer-up-in-chief after Monty's gardening efforts.

But Mr Saul is designer of their two-and-a-half acre garden near Street, Somerset, plus the three and a half acres at the Mulberry HQ and the four and a half acres at Mulberry's Charlton House Hotel, the latter two gardens at Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

He indulges in all this creative activity despite pressure at the company for him to delegate design and concentrate on running the business. His excuse is a need to have spare-time passions. Mrs Saul says: "It's sanity time. He'd go barking mad without it."

The garden and the business feed on each other. Mr Saul finds inspiration for Mulberry fashions from the garden and vice versa. The sunken garden, for instance, was planted in the then Mulberry livery of purple, pink, silver and white. But those who associate the company with discreet Englishness should note that the hotel garden has a bed of clashing colours — red, orange and purple.

Although he knows his plants (his favourite are echiums, which he grows in a ramshackle greenhouse and brings in to the conservatory to flower), Mr Saul talks about the planting almost exclusively in terms of colour combinations. He is influenced by the landscaper Gertrude Jekyll, adapting her colour theory for his borders and building the sunken garden, with a rose-smothered pergola to one side, as a result of having seen Hestercombe, Jekyll's Somerset garden.

"We built the sunken garden ourselves. It was hard work, because we hit heavy clay and rock. I discovered, after I'd made it, that this kind of garden is a frost pocket," says Mr Saul, whose gardening pedigree comes from battalions of garden-mad great-aunts, a grandmother who used to lead young Roger around her Norfolk garden reciting the Latin names of plants, and a mother who is a passionate gardener.

The garden gene has coursed through Mr Saul's veins and into those of his youngest son, Fred, ten, who was christened in the font at the sunken Hestercombe-esque garden. Today, Fred is jointly designing a Mediterranean garden with his father, who has already planted a fan palm from the Isles of Scilly in the crook of a southwest wall.

They plan "hot pink, yellow, blue and orange" growing out of gravel. At 25ft above sea level, the climate is usually kind, although the garden is too far from the sea to get any real climatic advantage.

Mr Saul's first independent gardening experience was in a tiny patch of Kensington, west London, overshadowed by a plane tree. It was a lesson in gardening in dismal conditions: "I planted lots of aucuba," he says. Then the Sauls built a roof garden on top of the first Mulberry shop, in St Christopher's Place, central London. But few of the big buyers could face the struggle of getting up the steep stairs.

Today, his sloping, southwest facing garden is made mostly to his own design, although a herbaceous border, a leylandii hedge (now clipped into shape) and a slightly tired, mushroom stone terrace are a legacy from the previous owners.

When the Sauls moved here, 22 years ago, they began by planting 4,000 oak, beech and ash in the 30 acres they own beyond the garden, to give a flavour of the deer park that once surrounded the house. Thousands of snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells were planted, too.

"That was an interesting exercise. I thought it would be fairly easy, because I knew what kinds of trees would grow here and knew what trees I wanted to plant. But getting the placing right, planting at the right time and buying at the right price was a nightmare. I did the planting on paper first and then put markers in and kept moving them about until we got it right."

The Sauls have also planted a cider orchard, which supplies their cider press.

The garden has a traditional flavour: there are deeply English touches, such as the asparagus in the well-stocked vegetable garden, and hens and ducks padding around an old orchard.

A former vegetable garden has been transformed into a knot garden, with variegated box around the edge. Clipped box traces the outlines of the aces of hearts, spades, clubs and diamonds, each filled with sage, curry plant, French lavender, santonina, and four standard roses. The stone joker prances behind a climbing rose romping up a dovecote, built by the Sauls.

At the centre is an elegant sphere of metal struts which decorates the knot garden, as well as watering it. The sphere is a Victorian watering device which drives itself, the water force causing the sphere to rotate. It was a present from Monty to Roger.

Most of the presents the Sauls give each other seem to be garden orientated: a vast orchid in the hall was a birthday present from him to her, as well as a harpsichord painted with an aerial picture of their garden. And two large terracotta pots with the name of the house carved into the brims. He also bought her a 6ft-high monkey puzzle tree, gift wrapped.

Not to be outdone, she gave him a second-hand sock. Stuffed inside were the deeds of an old barn, which now houses the swimming pool.

The Sauls have come a long way since the days when money was too tight for gardeners and they slaved from early on Saturday morning to late on Sunday night just to keep the garden under control.

JANE OWEN



Kilver Court, Mulberry HQ

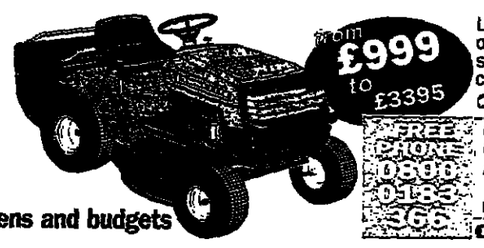
TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

HOMES & GARDENS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

LOVE your GARDEN

MTD For A Growing World.®



from £999 to £3395

Choice of 12 models to suit a variety of gardens and budgets

Love, pamper and groom your lawn and garden. Twelve garden tractors offering a choice of automatic drive, hydrostatic drive, 'direct collect' super efficient, easy to empty grass collection, comfy seat, luxury controls, smooth safe operation. Plus a full range of useful accessories.
ONLY MTD CAN OFFER SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE CHOICE

FREE PHONE 0800 013 366

For FREE Colour brochure and nearest specialist dealer.
Name:
Address:
Post Code: Tel: TT01

MTD (UK) LTD, FREEPOST, Customer Services, Orlando House, 36 Gedling Road, Carlton, NOTTS. NG4 1BR.

80 YEARS SERVING SPECIALISTS, SERVING YOU

Cub Cadet by MTD
YARD-MAN by MTD
LAWNFLITE by MTD

GIANT WINTER SALE

WROUGHT IRON & TIMBER GATES
DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY

All at Factory Prices NO MIDDLEMANS PROFITS TO PAY

HUGE SELECTION ALWAYS IN STOCK

See the latest range of high quality, low cost, wrought iron and timber gates in the UK. Craftsman made, our prices start at just £20.
Over 500,000 satisfied customers.
You buy direct from the factory at factory prices.
Nationwide 7 day delivery.



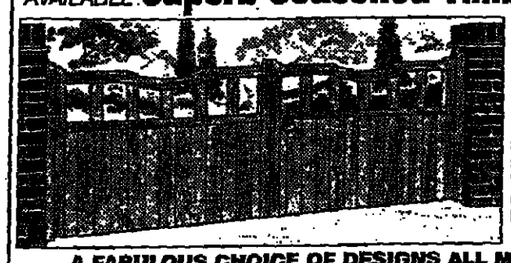
Automatic Gate Systems Available

GATES FROM JUST £20 SINGLES PAIRS HIGH & LOW MODELS

STANDARD SIZE DELIVERED IN 7 DAYS

FREE 36 PAGE COLOUR CATALOGUE OVER 200 DESIGNS & SIZES TO CHOOSE FROM

ALSO AVAILABLE Superb Seasoned Timber Gates



Huge selection available in singles and pairs made by craftsmen in prime timber. Available in a selection of sizes to grace the homes of discerning house holders.



A FABULOUS CHOICE OF DESIGNS ALL MADE BY CRAFTSMEN IN OUR OWN FACTORIES

VISIT OUR FACTORY SHOP AND DISPLAY GARDEN
OPEN 7 days a week Monday-Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

Cannock Gates
Gateway to Great Garden Ideas

24 HOUR CATALOGUE PHONELINE
01543 462500
or write to: CANNOCK GATES LTD. (Dept TT0898), HAWKS GREEN, CANNOCK, STAFFS WS11 2XT.
UK MAINLAND ONLY. If you do not wish to receive mailings from carefully selected companies please advise us.

THE NEW 1998 WOOLMANS CATALOGUE



For all your chrysanths, dahlias, geraniums, patio, container and hanging basket plants.
PHONE 01386 833 022 or FAX 01386 832405
Woolmans

Iron twice as fast sitting down or your money back!



• OVER 1 MILLION SATISFIED CUSTOMERS
• EASY TO USE
• SUPERB FINISH
• SWISS MADE

Rust Symposium Ltd., FREEPOST (BC2269) Bicester, Oxon RG9 1ZZ
Call the Ekosprem hotline FREE on 0500 001109

THE ENDLESS POOL



• Counter current swimming gives unlimited swimming in a pool only 15'x8'.
• Current speed adjustable to individual requirements.
• Complete kit for £12,500 + VAT for all your indoor swimming pursuits total cost less than any comparable conventional pool.
• Operation and heating costs under £5.00 per week.

Full Information From

ENDLESS POOLS™
SWIMMING MACHINES
TEL: 01420 561286
FAX: 01420 561277

Regency Awnings Limited



Would You Like To:
• Make the most of your patio and garden this year?
• Enjoy your barbecue without the risk of rain spoiling your day?
• Reduce glare onto your sitting room without obscuring the views to your garden?
• Protect your internal furnishings and carpets from fade?
• Extend your practical living space without having to worry about planning permission?

We can offer you:
• A wide range of awnings and blinds to suit all windows, doors and patio doors.
• A superb range of fabrics and colours to match your interior decor or outside furnishings.
• Expert installation by our own fully trained fitters.
• A full 5 year guarantee which includes two on site service checks absolutely free.

For a free on site design & consultancy service or colour brochure call:
01494 793998
Cophams House, 31 Bland Street, Chesham Buckinghamshire HP5 3EA

DOES YOUR GARDEN HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

What personal events have happened in your garden?
Have you found love, inspiration or just slugs amongst your roses?
Are there fairies in your hedgerows?
Do you yearn to share your own garden folklore with others?
Just why is the garden your passion?
The BBC are making a new series about people and gardens.

Please contact Belinda/Vanessa on: 0181 752 8474/6102 and let your gardening stories bloom.....

HARD WATER
The scientific solution



We believe Krystal is the only water softener worth fitting.
■ Advanced computer technology with automatic 24-hour, 365-day programme
■ Compact size means installation is never a problem - even in the smallest spaces
■ Universal performance - Krystal is exceeding expectations where others fail

FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE

Our Promise soft water or your money back

Fit Krystal yourself- NO plumbing, NO maintenance, NO chemicals and less than £2 a year to run.

Lime scale problems? Krystal can clear the whole house for less than £80!
Hard-water hands? Krystal gives you soft water from every tap
Clogged-up shower heads? Krystal keeps them clean and clear
Stains in the basin? not with Krystal

NO-RISK HOME TRIAL - we give you 90 DAYS to try Krystal IN YOUR OWN HOME

Call Free 0800 590050 Lines open 24 hours, 7 days For your free brochure

Clearflow Ltd, 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE Tel: 01488 687606 Fax: 01488 685411
TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOMED

WE WILL CUT 1/2 ACRE OF YOUR LAWN IN 15 MINUTES! FREE!

Let us prove to you in your own garden, that this superbly engineered Allen Turf Trooper triple mower will run rings around any garden tractor. Three power driven precision built cylinders accurately follow ground contours, cutting grass closely, cleanly and evenly giving your lawn a truly professional finish. A full 60" width of cut saves you time and fuel! The Allen Turf Trooper is a quality built, rugged machine, its functional no nonsense design makes maintenance easier and faster, cutting your costs as well as your grass.

CALL* 01235 515400
FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION DEMONSTRATION AND WE WILL PROVE OUR CLAIM.
(* OR COMPLETE THE COUPON BELOW)



NAME:
ADDRESS:
TEL NO
POSTCODE: TICK FOR DEMONSTRATION
TT01/403/98

0845 60 10 81 5 BROCHURE LINE

Allen Power Equipment Ltd, The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES
For Sales & Service Tel: (01235) 515400 Fax: (01235) 515401

هكذا من الأصل

SWNS



David Bridgwater shows off his collection of old, made-to-last watering cans

There's more to watering cans than handles and spouts – they can be works of art

The can man's water music

How much would you pay for a watering can? About £2.50 for a workaday plastic one; £20-£30 for a well-designed plastic can with a brass rose; £60 for an elegant galvanised can; £110 for an all-copper or brass can; or £2,500 for an unusable antique? That is the choice. But before you say, "Well, I only use it for pouring a couple of gallons on the roses," think about what makes a good, efficient can. You may find that you want to pay more than you think.

Balance is what a can is all about. You should be able to pour gently and smoothly, however full it is. If the water is going to glug suddenly forward, spit out of the rose and batter your newly pricked-out seedlings, it is badly designed. If it has one of those short, almost vertical, teapot spouts you will have far less control of the water flow, again possibly damaging your plants.

To get the last of the water out, some cans have to be levered forward beyond their point of balance. But in a good can the flow is easy and effortless from start to finish.

The best cans are oval in cross-section, so that as you walk, the can does not bang into your leg.

A crude, large-holed rose, in plastic or brass, will do for sloshing water on a patch of lawn or a shrub. But the best cans have a rose with fine holes, so that you can water young seedlings delicately. The finest holes are found in brass roses. But fine holes can block, so the best cans carry some sort of removable filter in the bottom of the can, to stop debris passing down the spout in the first place.

Can handles vary widely. Some cans have a loop handle side-to-side over the top, which means you have to put the can down and pick it up again with two hands to pour. I prefer a handle which runs front to back, parallel with your step, so you can water single-handed.

David Bridgwater, a dealer in antique garden ornaments and statuary, is fascinated by old tools and collects handtools, sprayers, grass hooks, secateurs, knives and any number of cunning patented devices with which a labourer or a gentleman might have eradicated this or chopped off that. He also collects watering cans. His *pièce de résistance* is a battered 19th-century French can, in beaten copper, with a massive dome-shaped rose. Another favourite is an embossed Dutch brass can, fat as a jam-making pan.

Mr Bridgwater, who formerly worked in the architectural salvage business, knows that what survives in the long-term is always the best: things that are well-designed and well-made. And so, combining his love of old tools with that of the well-made, he decided to replicate a late 19th-century Paxton watering can.

He looked first to Hawes, a leading commercial can-maker, but the firm was reluctant to take on the job (its classic long-spouted cans, now available in metal or plastic, have been around for generations).

Eventually, Mr Bridgwater found a tinsmith in Birmingham to do the work, and employed another firm to make the brass roses. The result is a fine hand-made can which is a pleasure to handle. It has it all — two roses, filter, oval cross-section, front-to-back handle, removable swan-neck on the spout, and even little punched feet underneath so that it doesn't leave wet rings on the floor.

When you take off the swan-neck or a rose, it doesn't just pull off; you twist and pull, and gradually the two brass halves slide apart, the joint long and gradual to ensure a drip-free operation.

But is it worth £69 for a 2.5 gallon galvanised can? Or £110 for brass or copper? Well, it's a bit like driving a well-appointed car: once you've tried it you never want to go back to any other. And it might still be around in 100 years when all the plastic ones have cracked, and gone to landfill.

S.A.

● *The Paxton can is available from David Bridgwater at Heather Cottage, Lansdown, Bath BA1 9BL (01225 463435): 1 gallon — £59 galvanised, £100 brass or copper; 2.5 gallons — £69 galvanised, £110 brass or copper.*

● *Hawes watering cans are available from most garden centres. Expect to pay about £55.*

Thief who's a hard nut to crack

Grey squirrels have ousted their harmless red cousins and are a menace in the garden, says **Stephen Anderton**. What can we do?

What eats crocus corms, tulip bulbs, strawberries, apples, magnolia and camellia buds, walnuts, hazelnuts and trees? Answer: the grey squirrel.

What eats grey squirrels? Answer: nothing. And it's not as if they don't take risks. Grey squirrels spend a lot of the day in the open, down on the ground, unlike red squirrels, which prefer the tree tops. But no bird or mammal in Britain is a serious predator of squirrels. Not even man.

So, what can be done about these marauding greys? The best solution is to discourage them, frustrating them before they frustrate us. (Believe me, there are many gardeners who would kill any squirrel slow enough to get caught. As one angry reader put it: "Forget the tail and what have you got? A rat.")

How then to frustrate a squirrel? The most efficient means are mechanical, mostly involving wire mesh. You can put strawberries in a sturdy fruit cage, and plant cordon fruit trees in there, too. You can temporarily net shrubs and wall fruit so that, if the squirrels are not completely denied access, at least they find it harder to take an entire crop.

Maybe it is because squirrels are such wasteful feeders that they are so hated. They half-eat things, then drop them and move on to something else, like a child let loose in a sweet shop.

Wire netting also works as a protection for bulbs, either in pots (a favourite target) or in the ground. Lay it over the bulbs and then put soil or turf over that. Better still, plant your tulip bulbs 7-8in deep first: the bulbs like it and it should lock in their smell a little. Crocuses will not stand such deep planting and must take their chance at 2in down. Bulbs in pots can be given a mobcap of wire netting to keep them safe.

What else can you do to stop squirrels thieving garden produce? One reader says he traced some squirrels back to a hole in a hollow tree, where he relieved them of a barrow-load of stolen walnuts.

To exclude squirrels altogether is impossible. The Royal Horticultural Society says there is little to be done, excepting mechanical deterrents. "But," it adds, "a bad winter does reduce their numbers."

Grey squirrels were introduced from America 150 years ago. They live at a population density of nine pairs to the hectare, whereas the harmless old reds manage only one pair to a hectare. Where squirrels are locally destroyed by man, it takes only a few weeks for juveniles to move in and establish a new territory. So wiping out the squirrels from a limited local area is a waste of time. The best that can be hoped for is a reduction in the population density, especially during the summer months when the population is highest.

For those not able to go trapping, shooting and poisoning, the best thing to keep the population down is not to give them nuts all winter. If you feed birds, get a squirrel-proof feeder. Winter-fed squirrels have two advantages: they can withstand winter cold better and, more importantly, are more likely to produce two litters of youngsters the following year. One of the reasons the grey squirrel has done so well at the expense of the native reds is its ability to eat a more omnivorous diet. While the anchorite red sticks to its dry nuts and pine kernels, the gourmet grey will happily scoff its berries with a few birds' eggs and a sip of sycamore sap. And having eaten well it breeds well.



'The grey squirrel will scoff its berries with birds' eggs and a sip of sycamore sap'

The grey also carries a virus called parapox, to which it is immune, but the red is not.

A further reason for the decline of red squirrels has been the felling of mature conifers. Their idea of heaven is a woodland of mixed conifers, but many conservationists prefer to see coniferous woodlands interplanted with a percentage of broadleafed trees, and it is this small percentage which attracts the grey squirrels. So heads they win, tails we lose.

Commercial forestry now has a serious problem with grey squirrels stripping bark in early summer, from beech and sycamore especially. They also like our native Scots pine — ten to 40 years old is the preferred age. Stripping at low levels can kill the trees, and it is a serious disincentive to the planting of broadleafed trees for timber.

As a long-term means to reducing the damage, high pruning and heavy crown-techniques are being investigated. And Sheffield University is looking at the use of reproductive inhibitors.

All this makes gardeners worrying about the crocuses look rather small beer. But where grey squirrels are a problem in gardens, the most useful thing we can do is to stop stuffing them full of peanuts and hope for a bad winter.

Nip it in the bud

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

TERRY HEATHCOTE



A small-mesh bird-feeder will help to foil marauding squirrels and reduce their winter numbers



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q My *Elaeagnus x ebbingei* 'Gilt Edge' is 7ft tall by 6ft wide and I wonder if it would stand clipping into a moderately formal domed cylinder? — B. Doyle, Fairbourne, Gwynedd.



A Elaeagnus are an attractive group of evergreens and semi-evergreens. The individual leaves, as in 'Gilt Edge', are very fine, often variegated and striking at a distance. But, like hybrid tea roses or pyracanthas, the shrubs themselves have little poise. They throw shoots at difficult angles, with or without pruning, and generally seem to want to please themselves.

They can be successfully shaped, starting in May with secateurs, not shears, cutting only into wood no thicker than half an inch, and taking back within the intended shape any wayward branches. This will encourage them to branch out and fill gaps. In late summer, shorten back new growths on the rest of the bush, to improve shape and density. Over two to three years you will get a shrub which has a reasonably dense and complete shape. You might then get to the stage where a clipping in late summer would define the shape. But with such glamorous leaves it seems wicked to use shears. Far better to spend half an hour going over it with secateurs, so the winter outline is not marred by chopped leaves and shabby twig ends. The same treatment can be given to pyracantha, which sprouts rather better than elaeagnus.



Q I attempted to summer prune my ornamental purple-leaved plum *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra' to get rid of vertical watershoots. But it has produced even more long, straight, vertical shoots from the cut ends. Is there any way I can treat the tree so that I can leave it unpruned? — N. Roberts, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

A Plums have this habit of throwing long shoots out of the middle of the tree. Cutting back main branches only encourages more soft shoots. The best answer is to live with your long shoots. After a couple of years, thin them out to leave an acceptable, well-spaced number. In time they will slow down, make fuller branches and bend over. Prune plums gently, thinning rather than chopping.

Q Last year I was given a male and a female kiwi plant, with no instructions about cultivation. What do I do? — V. Bhewden, Bristol.

A Kiwi fruits, *Actinidia chinensis* (Chinese gooseberry), will thrive in sun or shade, but to ripen fruits plenty of sun is needed. A tall warm wall is best if they can grow to the full, and more. Prune out the leader this year so that there are several stems to cover the wall. They take a few years to settle down to flowering, and the flowers are produced on short sideshoots from older wood. Annual pruning is required at the end of winter, to shorten back the long new growths to a few buds. It is possible to grow kiwi fruits into a tree, but they are harder to prune and receive less reflected warmth. Nevertheless the huge hairy leaf is dramatic, and it makes a fine climber for the wild garden. The flowers are creamy white and a couple of inches across, rather like a single rose or potentilla. They are, however, short-lived.



● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*



■ Divide and replant clumps of snowdrops and aconites into twos and threes while still in full leaf and flower. Lift a whole clump at a time, pulling it apart into small groups and replanting in a slit made with a spade. No need to water: they will stand up by themselves in a few days. New varieties increase faster if they are divided every year or two.

■ Protect early blossom on wall-trained fruit trees against frost with polythene, horticultural fleece, netting or paper.

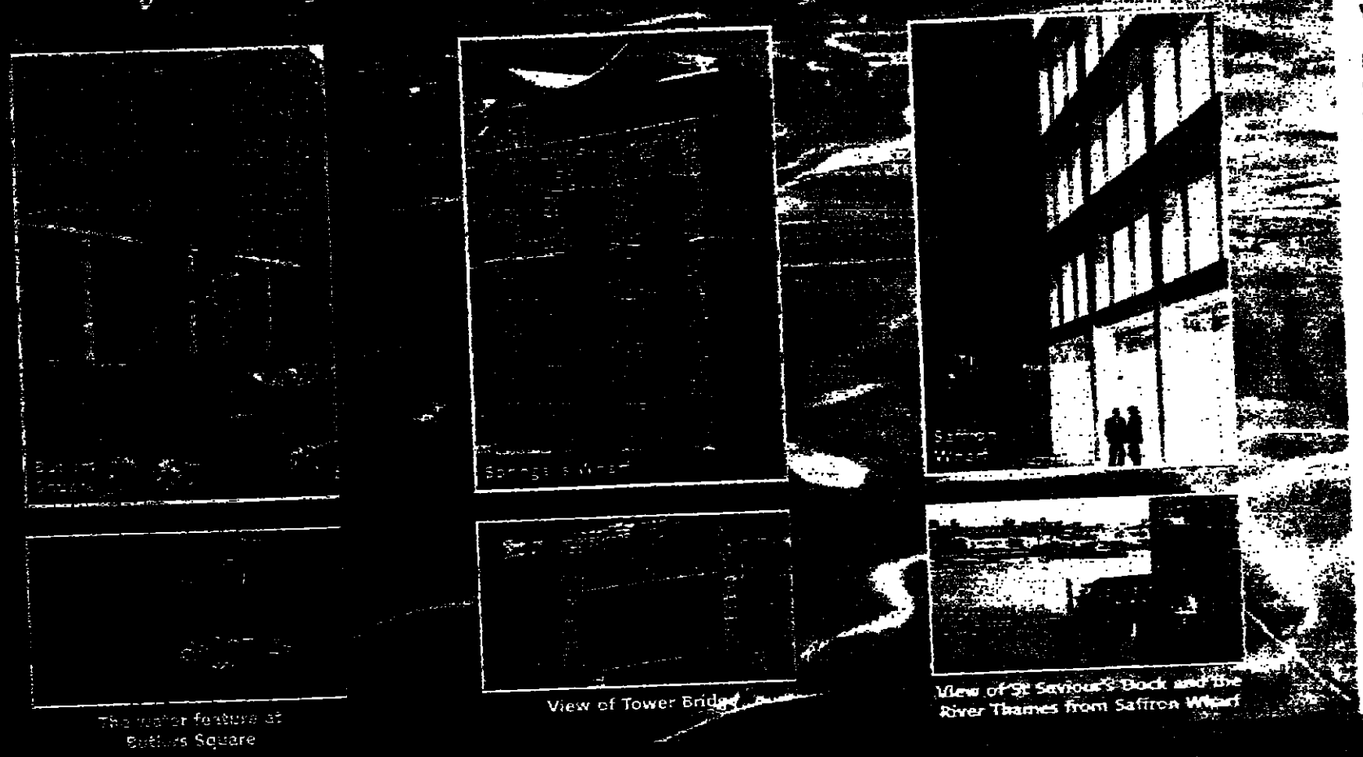
■ Cut back last summer's long wands of wisteria growth to two or three buds. Check the ties holding stems intended to fill new spaces on the wall. Stringing black cotton between the twigs may help to discourage birds nipping out the flower buds as they swell.

■ Sow over heat those bedding plants requiring an early start. Begonia, lobelia and antirrhinum have small seed which should be sown on the surface of the compost and not covered with a further layer. Cover the tray or pot with polythene until seedlings appear. A temperature of 70-75F/22-25C is needed for satisfactory germination of begonias.

■ The flower stalks are now rising on *Helleborus orientalis* plants. If the old leaves show signs of hellebore black spot (black circles or patches visible on both sides of the leaf) you may prefer to cut off the old leaves back to the crown before flowering starts.

هكذا من الاصل

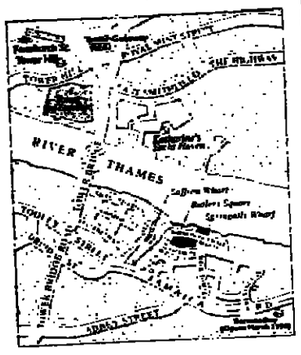
Berkeley would like to offer you an impossible... free.



Berkeley Homes offers you an irresistable collection of highly individual two and three bedroom apartments and penthouses with stunning Thames views. All residents can benefit from private underground parking and a fully equipped gymnasium in a secure riverside environment, just a short walk from fashionable Butlers Wharf.

Butlers Square
Secluded 2 bedroom apartments set around a stunning courtyard with a striking water moat feature. Some apartments enjoy river views and many have balconies.

Prices from £189,950



Springalls Wharf
New 2 bedroom luxury apartments, all with private balconies, overlooking the River Thames with stunning views towards Tower Bridge.

Prices from £270,000

Saffron Wharf
Inspired by the architecture of Conran Roche, Saffron Wharf offers a fusion of light and space. Thirteen 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and penthouses on St. Saviour's Dock with views of the River Thames.

Prices from £280,000

Sales Office Open Daily
10.30 am - 6.00 pm
0171-232 2225

Berkeley HOMES
QUALITY TO APPRECIATE

BEWLEY HOMES

Quality Homes of Distinction



SITUATED IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK, WINKFIELD PLACE IS A REFURBISHMENT OF A GRADE II LISTED BUILDING DIVIDED INTO SIX PRIVATE HOMES AND A NUMBER OF NEW HOMES WITHIN 20 ACRES OF PARKLAND. SALES OFFICE OPEN 10AM - 5PM DAILY FOR MORE DETAILS TELEPHONE 01344 891753 OR 01344 876363

YORK PLACE
WEYBRIDGE SURREY

FOUR AND FIVE BEDROOM LUXURY TOWNHOUSES OVERLOOKING THE CRICKET GREEN. VIEWHOME OPEN FROM THURSDAY THROUGH TO MONDAY FROM 10AM TO 5PM PLEASE TELEPHONE 01932 840874 OR 01932 842323



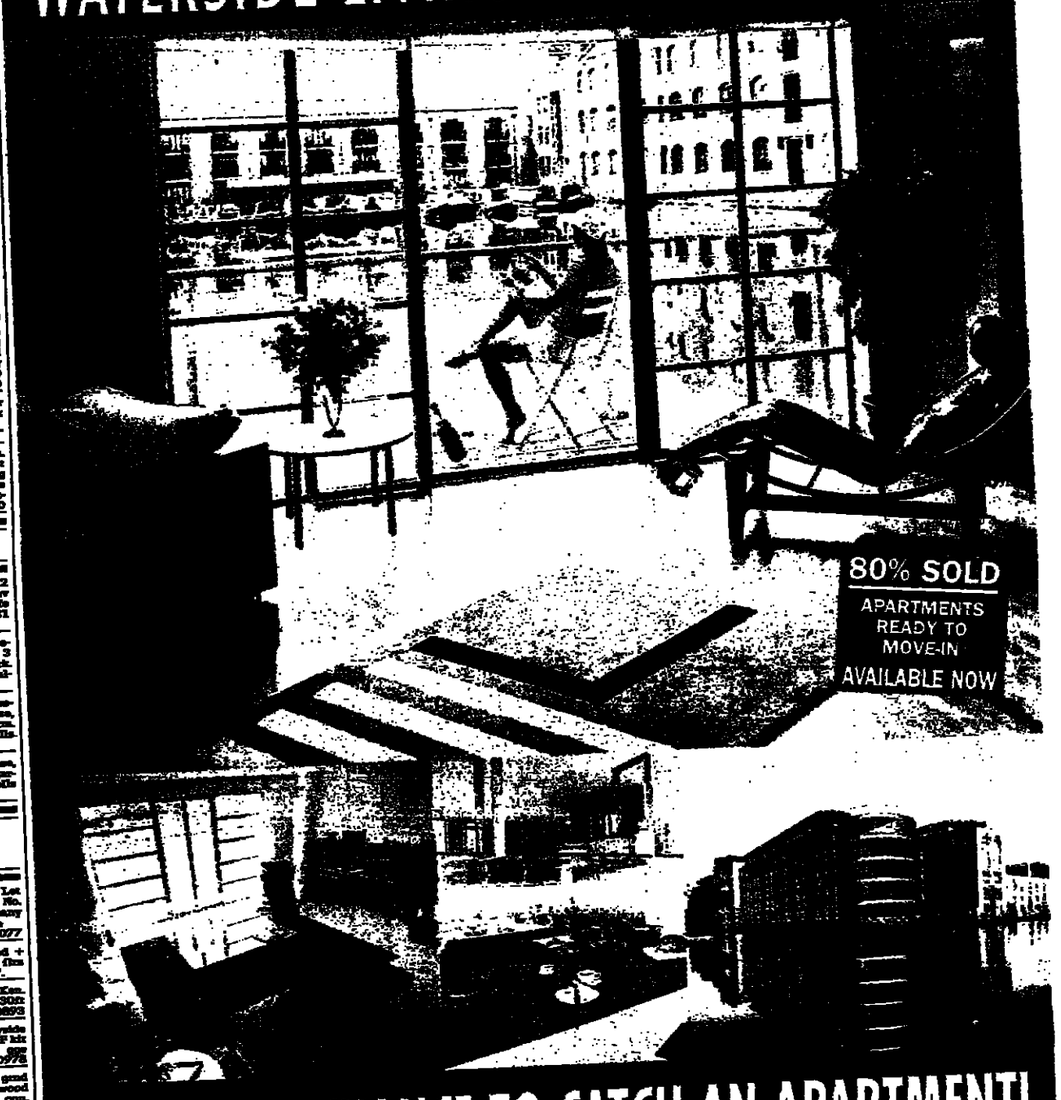
PRICES FROM £430,000

MANN & CO

BEWLEY HOMES

www.bewley.co.uk

WATERSIDE LIVING IN KING'S CROSS



YOUR LAST CHANCE TO CATCH AN APARTMENT!

ICE WHARF IS A STUNNING DEVELOPMENT OVERLOOKING REGENTS CANAL AND LONDON'S LARGEST PRIVATE NARROWBOAT MARINA

HIGH SPECIFICATION 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS FROM £139,995

ALAN SELBY & PARTNERS 0171 613 3055
PILCHER HERSHMAN 0171 465 1881

ICE WHARF

Westbury

In a sought after location on the outskirts of Taunton in Somerset, Westbury are releasing a new collection of

just 10 detached 5 bedroom homes

This is our first announcement giving you the opportunity to choose your favourite spot. All the homes include study, utility, dining, large hall, lounge, 3 bathrooms, double garage and sumptuous specification. Prices are from £215,000.

For advance information call Sandy Palfrey at our Exeter development on (01392) 446716.

ZONE ALASKA

TOWER BRIDGE QUARTER
LONDON SE1

ENORMOUS!
HIGH SPEC - FULLY FITTED
LOFT APARTMENTS
1,200 to 2,200 sq. feet
£155,000 - £225,000

TELEPHONE ALAN SELBY & PARTNERS
0171 613 3055

SOHO WEST ONE
PERIOD FREEHOLD HOUSE
5 floors. Enormous potential. Refurbishment required. A3 usage applied for. Offers invited in excess of £550,000.
Tel: 0171 724 7794

ENNISMORE GARDENS
29 year lease. 1,300sq. ft. Unusual, light and spacious garden flat. Private entrance. Lge hall/dining gallery. Living room, patio, mezzanine, study, double glazing, gas and lotus, sunset dble bdrm. Ready to move in. Excellent rental investment. Priced to sell, £235,000. Viewing Sunday.
Tel: 0468 255 524 or 0171 589 4836 Weekdays

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

HOMESEARCH LONDON LTD. Let us search for you. London's No. 1 Specialist Search Company www.homesearch.co.uk/free 0171 938 1066. Fax 938 1077

KEN W8 Stunning apt. 2nd + study, 2 bath, 2nd flrs £950,000. 0171 385 5727.

LARGE Edwardian House, NKen. 6bd, 2BR, Rec. Huge Attic. 30ft Gdn. £335,000. 0181 960 0893

MANSION MEWS Elm Bonnyside Dbl Recep 4 beds 2 baths FF kit with rm. Apr of year. app. £700,000 Tel. 0171 373 0978

REVERE SQ SW8 12' ceiling grand fir 1 bed flat, gdn views, wood floors & gallery. Tenure con. L/E £250,000 Anson & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

CITY & WEST END

CLERKENWELL New 2 bedroom Loft Conv. 1100-1400 sqft. £250,000-£259,000. Stratford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012.

THE GALLERY, Ledgate Hill EC4. Two well appointed apartments in new prestigious conversion close to Bank. £295,000 & £350,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CITY DOCKLANDS & EAST

BALTIC QUAY, SE16 A selection of 2 & 3 bed apts offering South Dock, passage and w/gard views. Close to Surrey Quays. L/E from £125,000 DocKlands Est 0171 790 7070

BARBICAN Area 3rd 1st & 2nd flr units. Nr subs. £130,000 Stock Page Stock 0171 251 4171

PAPERMILL WHARF, E14 A luxurious 2 bed triplex apt, 2 baths. Situated in popular Narrow St Lge roof terrace, stunning views, parking, secure grading. L/E £67,000 Docklands Estates 0171 790 7070

DULWICH

DULWICH Period 3 Bed, 2 Reception Flat with Loft conv and lge garden. "village" life in the City. £255,000 T/E 0181 693 2454.

FRIERN ROAD, SE22 Well presented 3 dble bed, Mod. bath, 2 recep, conservatory. Dulwich Park. £215,000 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722.

GRAVON AVENUE, SE24 Impressive Vic. dble fronted 5 bed hse, 2 bath, luxury kit/brkfst rm. G/H. £499,950 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722

WOODVALE SE22 Det. 3 bed hse, conservatory & 150ft rear garden. £180,000 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

HOMESEARCH LONDON LTD. Let us search for you. London's No. 1 Specialist Search Company www.homesearch.co.uk/free 0171 938 1066. Fax 938 1077

KEN W8 Stunning apt. 2nd + study, 2 bath, 2nd flrs £950,000. 0171 385 5727.

LARGE Edwardian House, NKen. 6bd, 2BR, Rec. Huge Attic. 30ft Gdn. £335,000. 0181 960 0893

MANSION MEWS Elm Bonnyside Dbl Recep 4 beds 2 baths FF kit with rm. Apr of year. app. £700,000 Tel. 0171 373 0978

REVERE SQ SW8 12' ceiling grand fir 1 bed flat, gdn views, wood floors & gallery. Tenure con. L/E £250,000 Anson & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

ENNISMORE GARDENS
29 year lease. 1,300sq. ft. Unusual, light and spacious garden flat. Private entrance. Lge hall/dining gallery. Living room, patio, mezzanine, study, double glazing, gas and lotus, sunset dble bdrm. Ready to move in. Excellent rental investment. Priced to sell, £235,000. Viewing Sunday.
Tel: 0468 255 524 or 0171 589 4836 Weekdays

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER STREET NW1 2 bed, 2 bath flat, 24hr porterage, 2nd flr, 999 yrs, £295,000. 0171 724 9919

BARBICAN Impressive and Radiant 1st floor split level, 2 bed, 2 bath apt. Open aspect. Quiet location. £475,000 For Quick Sale. Contact to View 0171 720 8555

BARBICAN Studio flat, lift, facilities, 2nd flr, 999 yrs, £75,000. 0171 724 9919

HYDE PARK W2 Second floor flat in period building, 2 beds, 2 baths, lge reception, fabulous kitchen. Good condition. £249,950 L/E. Bonhams 0171 725 3075.

HYDE PARK, Development Spacious 2 bed flat in Hyde Park Estate, o/look pk. £249,950. 0171 724 9919

LANCASTER GATE W2 Immac, 2 bed, house ground flr conversion, 25ft. flr, 999yrs, £149,950 L/E. Bonhams Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

MARBLE ARCH W2 Mod, rental investment, 4th flr, 2 bed apt, 25ft. flr, 999yrs, £149,950 L/E. Bonhams Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

MARBLE ARCH W2 Lge 2 bed, 2 bath flr conversion, 2nd flr, 999yrs, £280,000 Plus Natural Light. 0171 724 3100.

MARBLE ARCH Studio flat, lift, facilities, 2nd flr, 999 yrs, £95,000. 0171 724 9919

MARYLEBONE W1 Stunning 2 bed, 2 bath dbl recep flr conversion flat, exterior & roof terrace, 999 yrs, £295,000. D/E 0171 408 2728

MARYLEBONE, NW1 Excellent Three bed flat in popular pastoral location. 2 baths, 2nd flr, 999yrs. Offers in excess of £329,995 Bonhams 0171 725 9986

PALACE COURT W2 Nr. Notting Hill Gate, Superb 3 bed, 2 bath, 2nd flr, newly conv. apt, dble aspect, 25ft. lge, 999yrs, £595,000 L/E. Bonhams Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

REGENTS PK, NW1. Beautiful studio apt. Ideal for Crown Estate employee. Offers around £47,500 Bonhams 0171 725 9986

REGENTS PK, NW1. Prime 2 bed flat, in prestigious Crown Estate block + o/s parking. £210,000. Bonhams 0171 725 9986

WEST KENSINGTON Fabulous open plan apt, split level, 2 bed, 2 bath, penthouse, with terrace, 91 yrs L/E, £240,000. Tel: 0171 721 7021.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

CLAPHAM Old Town. Unique period Cottage, 2 rooms, 2 dble beds, 2 bathrooms, 2nd flr. £205,000. 0171 622 5626

PUTNEY 2 dble beds, lge, lounge, fully fitted kitch, balcony, 80ft. flr, £160,000. D1908 774817.

SW11 2 bedroom cottage, 999, Freehold value, £199,950 Wadlington 0171 924 4400.

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN EC2 Split level one bed flat on 1st/2nd flrs, o/looking balcony. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

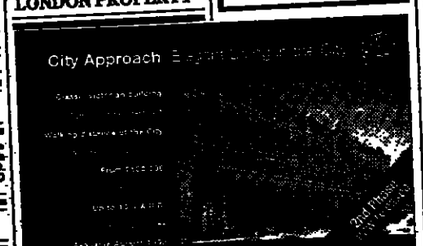
CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN EC2 4th flr one bed flat, potential for second bedroom. £160,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CITY EC1 A new conversion of five one bedroom flats, close to Broadgate, with spacious views over Bunhill Fields prices from £142,500. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

TANNERS YARD, SE1 A selection of two bedroom flats in this period warehouse development in the heart of London & Tower Bridge. Lease 99yrs. Prices from £130,000 to £172,500 Docklands Tel: 0171 790 7070

LONDON PROPERTY



NEW HOMES

DULWICH

DULWICH Period 3 Bed, 2 Reception Flat with Loft conv and lge garden. "village" life in the City. £255,000 T/E 0181 693 2454.

FRIERN ROAD, SE22 Well presented 3 dble bed, Mod. bath, 2 recep, conservatory. Dulwich Park. £215,000 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722.

GRAVON AVENUE, SE24 Impressive Vic. dble fronted 5 bed hse, 2 bath, luxury kit/brkfst rm. G/H. £499,950 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722

WOODVALE SE22 Det. 3 bed hse, conservatory & 150ft rear garden. £180,000 F/H. Bonhams Dulwich 0181 299 1722.

LONDON PROPERTY

NOTTING HILL

PORTLAND ROAD, W11 Architect designed, mez-floored, 2 bedroom maisonette over 2 floors with large roof terrace. £525K mtg. Tel: 0171 727 0824.

WIMBLEDON

3 bdrm flat, mins from June/July 1st for 6/12 mnth. Mod cons, 1st flr, gdn, pkg, 12 mins shops & station. £1700 pcm. Refurbished, no agents. Box No 9752.

BRISTOL

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional service for buyers. Save time, effort, money. Inclusive 0117 974 1649

CUMBRIA

CUMBRIA/BORDERS property search. Scales Estates Ltd. Tel (01768) 881618 Fax 881072

DEVON

DARTMOOR Unique, 2 bed bung on moor, stunning views, isolation and tranquility. Spring water. TGA. 01803 732482.

DEVON

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional service for purchasers in Devon & Cornwall 01872 222349

DEVON

Quality new homes in edge of village loc. Super designs, houses and bungalows. Plots up to ½ acre. Rural Views. High spec. Prices from £135,000 to over £200,000

UNDERWOOD WARRINGTON
Tel (01271) 323290

DORSET

MOTCOMBE
Nr Shaftesbury
Detached Period house occupying elevated position on edge of village with outstanding views across surrounding countryside.
5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, outbuildings, gardens, paddock. Just under 1 acre. Guide price £300,000. Further land available close by, by separate negotiation. For details Tel: 01747 853743

DORSET

BRANKSOME PARK
Poole
Luxurious spacious semi-detching PS flat. Attractive reception hall, large sitting room with marble fireplace, dining room, sthrm, 3 dble bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 ensuite, superb kitchen/breakfast room, laundry room, terrace looking onto garden, dble garage. FH.D. £275,000. Tel: 01202 701616 (day) 01202 768869 (eves).

EAST ANGLIA

A HOUSE in Norfolk/Suffolk/N.E. Essex ? Coastal or inland. Let us help. 01485 210641 24hrs

N. NORFOLK COAST Charming 18th C cottage, sips & fully equpd. Tel: 01780 482099.

HERTFORDSHIRE

SAWBRIDGEWORTH 2 properties. 5 bed Edwardian country house in 2 acres, sthool, det. cottage, many period features. £625,000. Former Victorian lodge, prestigious location 3 beds, sitting rm, dining rm, centrally located for pbic, 2 garages, semi-rural gardens & chimneys £160,950. Wright & Co 01279 600400

HAMPSHIRE

LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE
Choice of three country homes with quality and style. These 4/5 bed properties offer a rare combination of spacious accomodation, manageable landscaped gardens, in a country setting and close to the excellent amenities of Lymington town.
OUR SUPERB SHOW HOME IS NOW OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS FROM 9.30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
PRICES FROM £355,000.
For further details
Tel: 01590-679446/01590-676033.

KENT

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN DESIRABLE KENT LOCATION
440 (yes 440) acres of woodland including 3 lakes, fisherman's outbuildings. Cabin or registered dwelling. Create your dream home or potential income opportunity within a country park, subject to planning. Vendor selling and prepared to consider a purchase price and planning split combination ORD £1.4 mill. TEL: Juliet 01580 212233 or 01580 200445.

COUNTRY PROPERTY

WENSLEYDALE
North Yorkshire



Attractive stone built house and restored barn in point list active Dales Village. 4 bedrooms, bath & wc; 2 receptions, kitchen/ diner, utility room & separate wc. All central heating. Private walled garden and renewal of planning permission for off central heating. Private walled garden and renewal of planning permission for one house applied for. Fine restored barn with office and library upstairs, play area downstairs, telephone point and economy 7 heaters. Various outbuildings.
£190,000 Tel: 01969 650295

هكذا من الاصل

School fit for a princess

Rachel Kelly feels the sadness in a building that once echoed with the sound of young girls' laughter

SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE



GILL ALLEN



Diana, Princess of Wales and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, former pupils at West Heath school in Kent, with headmistress Miss Ruth Rudge, at the school in 1987. The school was closed last year

Sevenoaks in Kent is braced for an invasion of fans of Diana, Princess of Wales. Her old boarding school, West Heath, is up for sale — lock, stock, and lacrosse sticks — after attempts to rescue her *alma mater* from closure collapsed last year.

The Princess's 15-year-old niece, Emily McCorquodale, was also a pupil there, as well as Diana's sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale. The tennis star Annabel Croft is another old girl.

One can't help feeling miserable walking through the gym where the young Lady Diana used to limber up before enjoying her dancing lessons. There is the rail where she once practised her *pliés*. Now the hall is lined with pianos ready for the auction at the end of March, pianos on which she once practised. Nearby are tables piled high with guitars.

A former classroom is full of crockery; another piled with desks: the detritus of a once happy school which was home to 120 pupils paying £12,000 a year.

Upstairs in one of the 42 dormitories and bedrooms are piled mattresses and neatly stacked bed-frames. Although there is speculation as to which dormitory Diana slept in, the girls in fact rotated dormitories each year.

The place is tatty but clean. Carpets are threadbare. Paint peels. Above all, there is a sense of melancholy now that it has been more than seven months since girls' laughter was heard in the corridors. It is, as the caretaker said to me, a place which seems to have lost its soul.

The only architecturally distinguished part of the school is the main 18th-century building which one approaches via a long drive through imposing double gates. It was here that Diana used to be dropped off at the start of each new term.



One of the dormitories in which Diana would have slept



Pianos from the music rooms are now up for auction

Despite her inevitable homesickness, she counted her school years here — from 1973 to 1977 — as some of the happiest of her life. It was here, in 1976, that she won the dance cup which is among the items included in the sale.

The Princess is remembered by her former headmistress, Miss Ruth Rudge, as a schoolgirl who would often appear on prefect's orders outside her room to explain why she had gone to bed late or failed to weed the rose beds on a Saturday. Indeed, Miss Rudge became so used to ticking off Diana that when the adult Princess visited her school, she instinctively did so again. She recalls finding Diana stacking plates outside the dining room and demanded to know why she was not in class. The Princess blurted out "But I have left the school now!"

> Despite her homesickness, Diana counted her years at the school among the happiest of her life

There are photographs of the Princess when she opened the Rudge Sports Hall in 1987 included in the sale. The auctioneers are still cataloguing the school's contents, and hold out the hope that they might find, and auction, more photos of Diana, when she was a pupil, in annual school photos or possibly playing sport.

The contents sale is on March 30 and includes antique furniture, beds, chairs, school sports uniforms, drinking glasses, Bunsen burners, as well as pictures and school cups.

Auctioneer Leslie Gillham, from the Lewes firm Gorringe's, which is selling the contents with the Hemel Hempstead auctioneer Wyles Hardy, said: "We are bracing ourselves for interest from Diana fans." No value has been put on the contents but the school buildings might be worth about £2 million, according to local agents, and could possibly return to residential use.

The original building dates back to 1760; in 1828 it was remodelled by the architect George Basevi, who worked on the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and also on Belgrave Square, London SW1. During the 19th century there were alterations and additions, including a stable yard and a castellated building. Early this century an east wing was added.

It is possible that a charity may yet come forward to settle the school's debts in advance of a sale, and the receiver has been in talks with an organisation that might try to come up with a viable proposition.

Last year, there was a campaign to create a centre for traumatised children in memory of Diana but supporters could not raise enough funds.

Speaking at a school memorial service for the Princess last November which was attended by 350 old girls, Miss Rudge said: "Diana went out of her way to help people and even then her floppy fringe showed a great sense of style. She was high-spirited, vulnerable, both needing and giving support to those around her."

It would be a fitting tribute indeed if such a centre could be established.

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

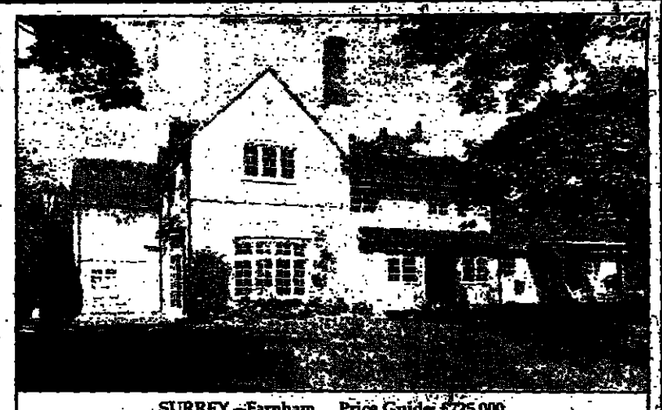
LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS ESTABLISHED 1872



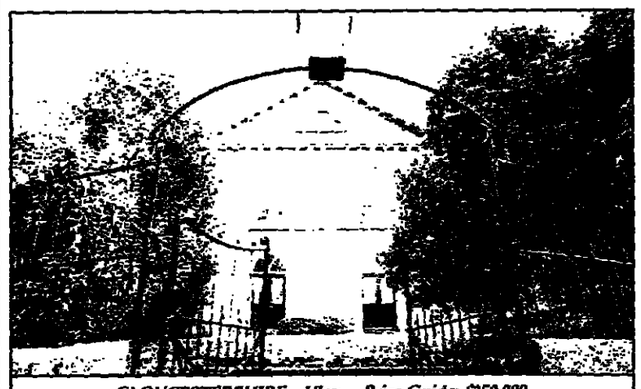
HAMPSHIRE – Chilbolton Price Guide: £300,000
An enchanting listed cottage, beautifully presented, on an unspoilt common close to the River Test. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception room, kitchen, conservatory, garage/storeroom and gardens
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131



PRIMROSE HILL, NW3. Lease to 2987 £575,000
On a quiet, leafy road close to Primrose Hill Park and St John's Wood, a spacious first floor flat in a large period house (excellent as a rental investment). 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, dining room and kitchen.
ST JOHN'S WOOD OFFICE: 0171 722 5556



SURREY – Farnham Price Guide: £725,000
A substantial and well-appointed period house with superb secluded gardens of about 2.5 acres. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, billiards room, reception hall, inner hall, utility room, cloakroom, heated swimming pool, garage and outbuildings.
FARNHAM OFFICE: 01252 737115



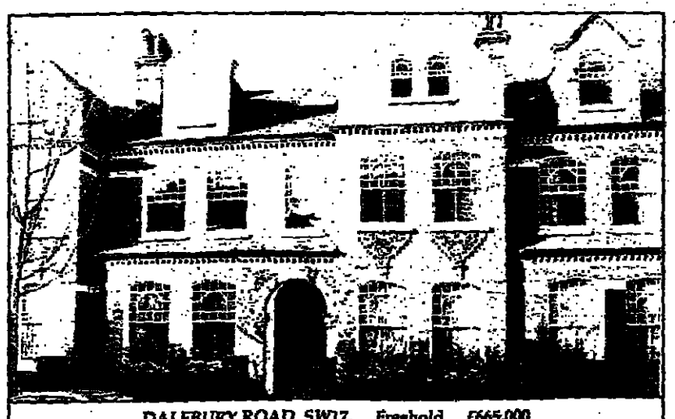
GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Uley Price Guide: £350,000
An imaginative conversion of an old chapel in an area of outstanding beauty. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, utility room, studio, garden and parking.
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244



OLD BARRACK YARD, SW1. Lease to 2066 £335,000
In a secluded backwater, approached via Wilton Row, a charming one bedroom house decorated and fitted to a very high standard. Bathroom, reception room, kitchen, cloakroom/utility room and small patio.
BELGRAVIA OFFICE: 0171 730 9854



SHEFFIELD TERRACE, W8. Freehold £1,425,000
A well presented, south-facing Victorian house in a quiet street on Campden Hill. 4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3/4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, 2 cloakrooms, roof terrace and garden.
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705



DALEBURY ROAD, SW17. Freehold £665,000
A very spacious and handsome double-fronted Victorian house, south of Wandsworth Common and within half a mile of local amenities. 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, utility room, separate WC, cellar and 16.5m (54') garden.
WANDSWORTH OFFICE: 0181 871 3033



ELM QUAY COURT, SW8. Leasehold £385,000
An elegant and spacious sixth floor flat with a wonderful roof terrace, offering spectacular river views. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen, dining area, porter, sports complex and underground parking space.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174

HEAD OFFICE: 26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD. 0171-493 4106. FAX: 0171-629 6071. http://www.johndwood.co.uk

LONDON OFFICES: BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174 BELGRAVIA: 0171 730 9854 CHELSEA: 0171-352 1584 FULHAM: 0171-731 4223 HAMPSTEAD: 0171-431 3292 KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705 MAYFAIR: 0171-493 0555 ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556 WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033 WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7772
COUNTRY OFFICES: CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244 EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326 FARNHAM: 01252 737115 LYMINGTON: 01590 677253 NEWBURY: 01635 522825 OXFORD: 01865 511522 WINCHESTER: 01962 863131 HONG KONG: 852 2572 5148
LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT: To let your house or flat in London & Surrey: 0171-352 0100 • South of the M3: 01730 829888 • North of the M4: 0118 [illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

TUSCAN PROPERTY: HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Going for a song – well, £1m actually



The portal still bears Giacomo Puccini's initials

The sale of Puccini's villa should end a drama worthy of one of the composer's operas. Rossella Lorenzi reports

A plaque at the entrance to a red brick villa in Viareggio, Tuscany, tells you that the house and the garden were the palace and forest of the splendid princess Turandot. Surrounded by overgrown vegetation, the oriental-styled villa where Giacomo Puccini lived for during the last three years of his life, seems to come out of a romantic fable.

The reality, however, is rather less fairylike. In the past 14 years, Villa Puccini has been at the centre of a battle over the composer's inheritance. It is now on the market for about £1.2 million and its sale should bring to an end a drama worthy of one of Puccini's operas.

The story began in 1986, with the death of the self-styled "Baron" Livio Dell'Anna, the last owner of the villa. Dell'Anna had inherited Puccini's estate, worth an estimated £17 million, from his sister Rita, the widow of Puccini's son Antonio. At his death, the baron named no heirs, so his estates, including Puccini's properties, were overseen by a court-appointed trustee, Aldo Giarrizzo.

To his astonishment, Giarrizzo found only a few lire left in the baron's bank account. He sued Pasquale Belladonna, the baron's butler and lover, alleging that he had illegally drained the bank account. But the court dismissed the case, ruling that the baron and the butler had a "para-matrimonial relationship."

There is also a lone soprano voice in this melodrama. Simonetta Puccini, the composer's sole surviving blood relative, was the result of a liaison between Antonio, Puccini's son, and a teacher. She now lives in the chauffeur's flat next to the villa. In June last year, a court ruled that Simonetta Puccini should inherit a third of what remained of the composer's estate.

The court decision to release Villa Puccini in Viareggio is the latest judicial act in this controversial story. "It is sad to sell another historical Puccini property, but the sale is necessary to pay the debts and the cash Simonetta has been awarded," says Giarrizzo.

After decades without an owner, the villa is in serious disrepair, yet is still permeated by Puccini's spirit. Puccini oversaw the building process, with the architect, Pilotti, and even designed and planted the garden.

Puccini lived there from December 1921 until his death in 1924. Wide steps lead up to a large veranda and the portal which still bears Puccini's initials. When the composer lived here, the 30 rooms were lavishly furnished and three had grand pianos.

The studio features the fireplace which has probably been the recipient of several Puccini's discarded scores — in this room he composed most of his final unfinished opera, *Turandot*. A staircase led from the study to the upper floor, so that Puccini did not disturb anyone when going to his bedroom after working late.

The house was plundered during the Second World War and nothing remains of the original furniture. Yet many period details — windows, niches in the wall, floors, doors, steps — remain and even the bath is the one used by Puccini.

The composer was already wealthy when he built the house. Money was piling up after the prodigious success of operas such as *Manon Lescaut*, *La bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madam Butterfly* and no expense was spared on the house.

Puccini was keen on contraptions, and the villa was one of the first in Italy with its own central heating plant. When the entrance plaque was touched in a particular spot, the gates would open and trees in the garden were fitted with concealed pipes which produced artificial rain.

Puccini became increasingly attached to the house and increasingly disinclined to leave it. Instead, he preferred to consult his librettists and meet his friends in the large, airy salon, which is still one of the best rooms in the house.

According to the architect Fabrizio Arrigoni, who has been living there with his caretaker family for several years, damp is the main problem with the villa. "Proper restoration would cost at least £300,000. I hope that the new owner will try to keep Puccini's spirit alive. It would be very sad to see this villa turned into a block of flats."

● *Contact: Aldo Giarrizzo (0)39 25455121.*

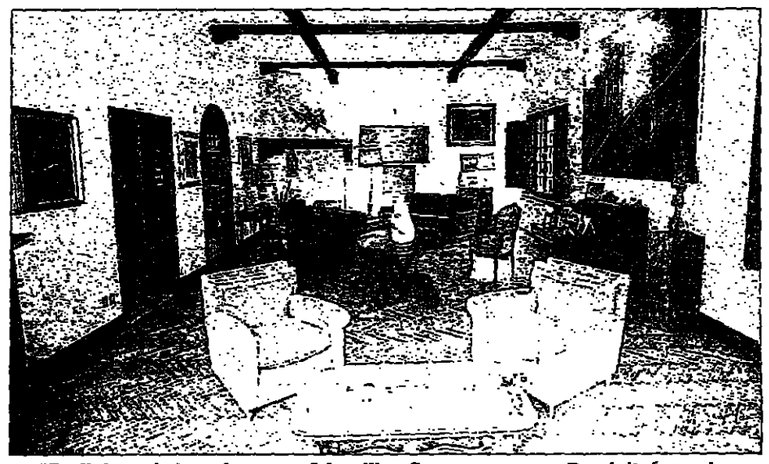
DES JENSON



Puccini spent the last years of his life at this oriental-style villa. After decades without an owner, it is in serious disrepair, yet is still permeated by Puccini's spirit



Puccini outside his beloved villa in 1923



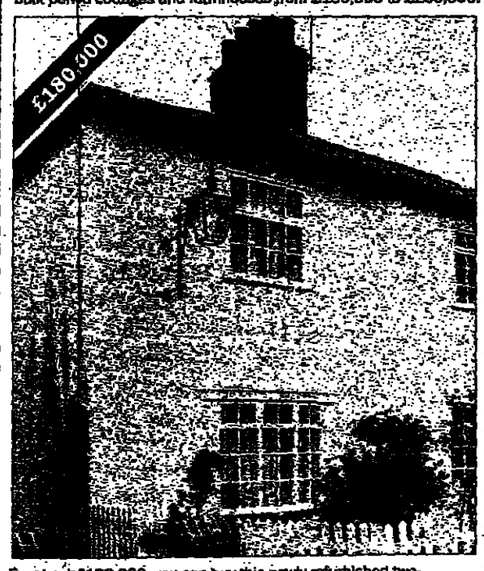
The light and airy salon, one of the villa's finest rooms, was Puccini's favourite

HOME SWAP

EXPECT to pay at least £230,000 for a three-bedroom house in Muswell Hill, north London, following price rises of 25 per cent last year, according to estate agent JHK.

In Suffolk, about £200,000 buys a detached four to five-bedroom period cottage in half an acre. Prices slip further north around Thetford, where you can buy a terraced cottage from £45,000. Many London commuters park at Stansted airport and catch a fast train to London, a 40-minute journey, with two trains an hour.

The Lune Valley, attracts commuters from Lancaster and Manchester, who are buying detached four to six-bedroom stone-built period cottages and farmhouses from £150,000 to £250,000.



For about £180,000, you can buy this newly refurbished two-bedroom, end-of-terrace cottage with a 100ft rear garden, in Fortis Green, north London, close to East Finchley (Foxtons, 0171-433 6600).



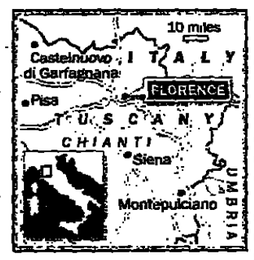
A similar sum will buy Dawes Farm, a Grade II listed 15th-century hall house in need of renovation, in an acre of garden, at Rattlesden, Suffolk (Bedfords, 01284 769999).



In Lancashire, South Farm, a 17th-century six-bedroom, four reception room farmhouse, at Overton, near Lancaster, can be yours for £195,000 (Fisher Wrathall, 01524 68822).

CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET COMMENT



THE CLASSIC Italian villa market is an expensive niche, centring mostly on Florence — the closer such properties are to the city, the pricier they tend to be (although this may work against them if they are surrounded by industrial development).

Closer to Florence, a few of these villas have been split into apartments, but most remain as the core properties of their original large estates. The outlying farmhouses so beloved of British buyers will, in many cases, have been sold as the estate is pared down, but the villas themselves often remain in the hands of the same family for many years.

As a consequence, those that come to the market generally require considerable restoration work, which can push the total cost up by anything up to 100 per cent. Nevertheless, it is easy to see their appeal. Many date from the 16th century and feature a square main house with eight bedrooms and wings that may be used as a ballroom or orangery, plus chapel, extensive cellars, walled or formal gardens, a cypress-lined drive, and outbuildings to process the fruits of the estate vineyards and olive groves. Remnants of the original frescoes, vaulted ceilings and open fireplaces add to the appeal of the package — as, in many cases, does a provenance dating back to the Medici family.

THE LIMITS to what can be done with the property mean that many people can get away without an architect and employ just a *geometra* (a glorified surveyor), costing around 10 per cent of the restoration cost. But buyers based overseas will need a local project manager (who may also be the agent) to oversee the restoration on a day-to-day basis.

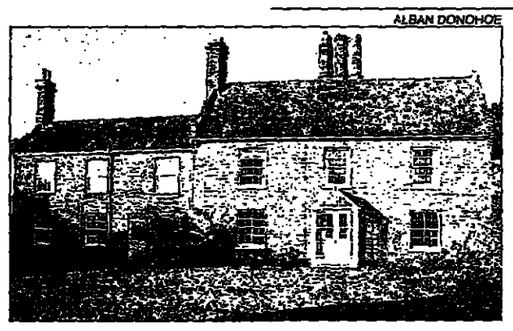
According to Patrick Dring of Knight Frank's international department, unrestored houses in Tuscany are enjoying a marked resurgence of interest, and even smaller villas in the region are likely to cost £1 million to £5 million, with work to be done: the greatest and grandest head up towards the £10 million mark. Bill Thompson at Knight Frank's Tuscany office also confirms that the top end of the market is moving most energetically. "There are a lot of buyers with £1 million and more to spend," he says.

Prices have been stable for some years; but with sterling's current strength they are looking good for British purchasers. However, the limited nature of both supply and demand, and the fact that buyers and sellers with this sort of money value privacy, mean that they tend to be sold on the quiet. Those who are interested in acquiring one should make their interest known to an international estate agent rather than scouring the ads in *Country Life*.

FAITH GLASGOW

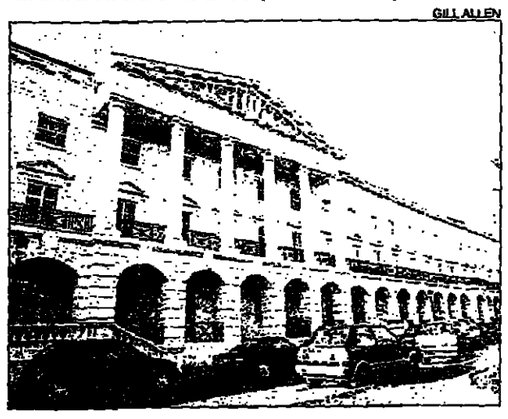
DREAM HOMES OF COMPOSERS

ALBAN DONOHOE



SIR BENJAMIN BRITTEN, composer of *Peter Grimes* and a founder of the Aldeburgh Music Festival, lived and worked in The Red House, Aldeburgh (above) from 1957 until his death in 1976. He shared it with his lifelong friend, Peter Pears, with whom he also formed a school for Advanced Musical Studies. The grounds of the farmhouse include the Britten-Pears library which has a collection of the composer's manuscripts.

GILL ALLEN



DR RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS lived in a four-storey terraced house near Regent's Park (above) with his wife, Ursula, for the last five years of his life. Two of his most famous works are Symphony No 3 (*A Pastoral Symphony*) and *Fantasia on Greensleeves*. The elegant stucco house has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, five reception rooms and a mews house and in 1996 it was valued at £4.25 million.

ELGAR FOUNDATION



SIR EDWARD ELGAR was born in 1857 in a cottage at Lower Broadheath, Worcester (above). The tiny, brick property, which has an adjoining coach house, is now a museum and displays many of his belongings including the desk at which he composed *Enigma Variations*. The triangular lavender and rose garden has fine views over the Malvern Hills and contains a summer house which originally stood in the grounds of Marl Bank, the house in which he died.

FLAT?
The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

هكذا من الاصل

I really love that house – or do I?

Some people change their minds about their dream home just days after buying. **Rachel Kelly** examines "buyers' remorse"

Like most buzz words, it began in America. "Buyers' remorse" describes the house-buyer who backs out 24 hours after agreeing to purchase their dream home. It sounds absurd. It can certainly be expensive. But it does happen – and increasingly so in a market such as Britain's, where a shortage of property can force up prices.

Conrad Payne, from Cluttons Daniel Smith in Canterbury, says: "Perversely, buyers are so shocked by finding something they like that they can't go ahead with the deal. They wonder why no one else has snapped it up."

Willie Gething, from the buyers' agent Property Vision, picked up the phrase while studying at Harvard last year. Amazingly, about 5 per cent of deals at the top end of the market – those over £400,000 – are affected, he says. Those buying cheaper houses have a strict budget often determined by lenders who are sensibly immune from such flights of fancy.

"Buyers' remorse typically happens when two buyers compete for a house," Mr Gething says. David Forbes, from the London agents Chesterfield, says that at the top end of the market the sums involved are occasionally matched only by the size of the egos.

"Buyers fight for the property and get so wound up in the buying process and so emotional that they cease to remember what they are buying and why," says Mr Gething.

Guy Galbraith, of FPD Savills, argues that buyers' remorse happens because purchasing decisions are made by the dominant partner in a relationship. "At the last moment, the non-dominant partner finds their voice and stops the deal. Buyers' remorse usually happens in the looking phase. You get some permanent lookers – and you find them more often in London. Country buyers tend to be more committed," Mr Galbraith says.

Or perhaps, says Anthony Rome, a partner from Knight Frank, buyers pull out because they fail to get planning permission for an extension, or perhaps they find out that a baby is on the way.



'They are so shocked at finding a house they like that they can't go ahead. They wonder why no one has snapped it up'

Sometimes buyers pull out because they can't pay. Just as Alan Bond ultimately didn't have the money to buy Van Gogh's Iris painting, so housebuyers find that their bank or lender won't stretch to that extra £100,000.

First-time buyers may also lose their nerve. Cary Cooper, professor of psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, says: "They may be reacting to the sudden realisation that they are now a homeowner, that they now have responsibilities. They may feel they can't cope with them.

"A house might become a symbol of something negative," Professor Cooper adds. "If you've moved into the new house with your partner, and you previously lived apart, you may suddenly find you are not that compatible.

"Or it can be that you don't like the area, or that your children start doing badly at school. Any of these things creates a negativity that is transferred to the house. The house becomes a symbol of something negative in your life. It's got nothing to do with the house itself, and everything to do with what it symbolises."

Sales which end with sealed bids, when would-be buyers are invited to put forward their best and final offers, are especially vulnerable to buyers' remorse.

Mr Gething recalls a recent case of two buyers competing for a £700,000 London mews house. The winning bid, at £850,000, dissolved almost as soon as it had been agreed. Agents often dislike sealed bids for just this reason.

Worse still, some buyers actually exchange and then regret their buy. An even smaller number exchange, complete and then regret, making themselves liable for lawyers' and surveyors' fees.

Mr Galbraith recalls the story of a Dutch buyer who bought Benalden, a 2,400-acre shooting lodge between Perth and Inverness, without consulting his wife. When the couple visited the house for the first time it rained throughout their 14-day stay. His wife said he must choose between Benalden or her.

The man resold for a loss. About 1 per cent of the estate's £1.4 million value went to a solicitor during the purchase, another 1 per cent to a solicitor during the sale, another 0.25 per cent on a valuation after buying, 1.5 per cent to the agency after selling, and 1 per cent on stamp duty. There were transport and land registry costs, bringing the total loss to about £70,000.

In the current market, buyers may not suffer too heavy a financial penalty as prices are increasing. Lulu Egerton, from Lane Fox, recalls a recent sale in Bedford Gardens, Kensington, west London. A client bought the house for £850,000, regretted the decision, and sold it again for £855,000, but of course there were lawyers and surveyors' fees to pay.

The emotional cost can be high, however. Professor Cooper says that, in general, decisions where only one partner is involved are almost bound to be disasters.

"Where one partner makes a decision, and the other is forced to go and visit the house after that decision, the house becomes a very specific symbol for the second partner. It is a symbol of resentment at the lack of involvement. The second partner may also feel angry at being forced to do something – in this case going to visit the house.

"If both halves of a couple aren't equally involved, and something does go wrong – bad plumbing, for example – the house will be the victim. It has come to symbolise something deeper in the relationship," he says.

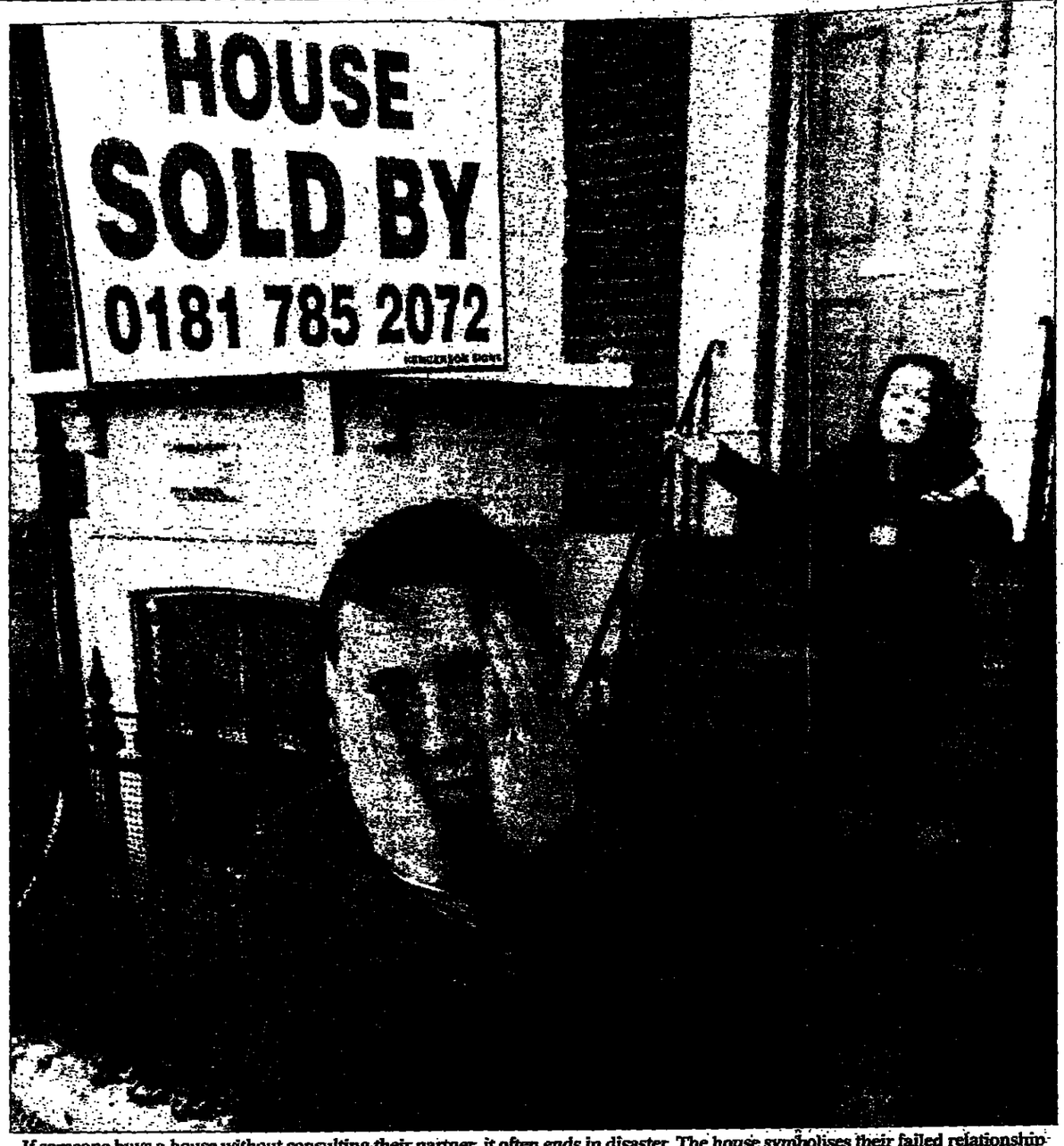
Buying at auction is especially risky as buyers get swept up in the auctioneers' eloquence and there is no reversing the bang of the gavel. Far better, says Mr Gething, is for buyers to carefully work out the price at which they are happy to lose a house – and stick to it. "I always emphasise this to clients. We try to persuade them not to pay emotional prices," Mr Gething says.

Buyers' remorse is clearly not in the sellers' interest. The best safeguard is for sellers to study a would-be buyers' credentials with care. "You should pay a lot of attention to the quality of a buyer," Mr Gething says.

The trouble for sellers is that the under-bidder on a house may well no longer be interested. "It is a difficult pyschological problem," says Mr Gething. "When someone has missed out on a house, they convince themselves that they didn't want it anyway to heal the wound. The drama and the excitement of the chase has gone."

The only exception is if the under-bidders are informed within weeks, rather than months. Otherwise the whole project has gone stale as far as they are concerned.

● *Additional research by Adam Barnard*



ANTHONY UPTON

If someone buys a house without consulting their partner, it often ends in disaster. The house symbolises their failed relationship

KENT

COMMUTED SCHOOL nr Canterbury. New, spacious hall style conv. in conservation area. 3 beds, 2 baths. Modern interior, charming garden, quiet village green. Double height lounge, large gallery, garden, parking. FH £134,000. 0171 221 3132

KENT/SUSSEX BORDERS Wonderful elevated 3 Acre site for fabulous 4,000 sq ft Millwood Designer Home. Built to your own specification plus indoor swimming pool, tennis court, triple garage. Sole Agents Country Property (Open seven days) Tel: 01580 211888.

LANCASHIRE

AROUND 18% pa probable capital gains for rented properties. Freehold £70,000. 01590 670984

LINCOLNSHIRE

SOUTH LINCS 15 miles from Rutland Water. Private woodland with existing dwelling + DPP for Mission hse. 0467 450220.

OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY 5 miles. Listed period village house with potential for extension. 3 recepts, 3/4 beds, 2 baths. Mature garden. Range of outbuildings inc. stabling, garaging. Paddock. Almost 1 acre. Lane Fox 01295 273592

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Saves time, frustration finding your home in Oxon/Bucks/S Northants. 01869 345736

SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE Gartley village. Restored Stirling Mearns cottage, 2 beds, 3 recepts, detached garage, small garden. £53,500. Tel: 01623 515616.

ANSTRUTHER Fife, Spac comfortable access, nr seaside, slips 6, fully equipd. 01382 370498.

SHROPSHIRE

LUDLOW MEDIEVAL TOWNHOUSE
Grade II listed part of town
5 bedrooms, wall, private courtyard parking.
Walled garden, separate office/outbuilding/garage.
5 min walk to town centre.
Private sale. Offers invited.
01584 874840.

Rothesay, Isle of Bute Scotland



Magnificent detached five bedroom Victorian Villa in quiet location, with panoramic views of Rothesay Bay. In superior decorative order, perfect family home or small bed/breakfast establishment. Glasgow airport one and a half hours. Offers around £120,000.
Further details Tel: 01700 50 2854

PROPERTY WANTED

WANTED SOMERSET/DORSET
Wells/Sherborne/Crewkerne Area. In town or village with lively community (church, school, pub, hall, shop). individual detached house, 3/4 beds, 2 bathroom, 2 large reception, study, kitchen/breakfast rm, utility, cellar. Garden with outbuildings preferably southfacing.
Up to £250,000.
Tel: 01737 211191.

SUFFOLK

WEST SUFFOLK Sought after location, det period cottage, 3 dble bedrms, outbuildings incl. 3 stables set in approx ¾ acre, £220,000. 01284 768273.

PRIVATE PARADISE
Unique 4 bedroom/2 bathroom/1 shower rm house converted from former Victorian yacht club on Suffolk Coast set in 5 acres with 3 reception rms, 1 of which overlooks River Alde. A private beach, with slipway, dock & quay are also included + 2 range of barns, stable & workshop with a vintage Rolls Royce & a Bar. The grounds contain a lake, fenced paddocks, orchard, hard tennis court, conservatory, private drive etc. OCH.
OIRO £395,000 considered.
Tel: 01394 450467

SURREY

A Superbly presented semi detached property forming part of the Royal Gate Development in Elm Village which is ideally situated for local shops and bus routes and within close proximity to River Thames and Richmond Park. £179,950 Freehold Tel: 0181 280 3060.

COBHAM, SURREY
Detached family home, spacious and versatile accomodation, easily available, within walking distance of picturesque village centre. Ideal for people prepared to forgo close schools convenience for local amenities and fine shopping, but still within easy commuting access to London, M25 and airports. Genuine opportunity to purchase, immediately available.
£265,000
Tel: 01932 867083

SUSSEX

BRIGHTON The Lanes, 16th C Mews 3 bed Fisherman's cottage, GCH, In need of refurb. £75,000ono. 01323 739746

CHICHESTER within walking distance City Centre & Theatre. Lge stylish townhse in quiet courtyard location. Built 4 years, 4 beds, dressing rm, 3 rec, kit/breakfast rm, utility, 1st workshop, 1st sge (also door). Burglar alarm. £245,000 FH. 01243 537735.

EASTBOURNE Director's S/bett house. £156,000. Tel: 01323 508643

COUNTRY PROPERTY

SUSSEX

40 miles Victoria from Haywards Heath. Attractive det house in country village. Split-level hse, 3 bed (en suite bath), study, garage. £184,950. 01444 831610.

WALES

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional service to find & secure your next property. Cardiff 0845 600 0104.

MONMOUTHSHIRE converted coach hse. Lounge, Dining/st. Study, Upstairs shower rm. FF Fitted Kit. Gge + utility. Apx. 2 beds, 1 ensuite. OIRO £200,000. Tel: 01873 859639(Day)/ 01873 840663(Eves/Wknd)

PEMBROKESHIRE Lux vill Bung, 4 bdrm, en suit, jacuzzi, 10 mins beaches. £89k+ 01437 710093.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Marriott VACATION CLUB INTERNATIONAL
The worldwide leader in Holiday Ownership is introducing its first European five star resorts with luxurious apartments and the Marriott service standard.
Very limited preconstruction pricing available.
Call 0800 004477 x 7071
for more information
Ref: 10705

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA Lux 3 bed, Furnished Beach villa, pool. £250K. Tel/Fax: 0171 930 0835.

CYPRUS

CYPRUS PROPERTY EXHIBITIONS
MARCH 1998
NORTHAMPTON
YORK*SALE*IPSWICH
EDINBURGH*NOTTINGHAM
DUNDEE*CARDIFF*NEWBURY
STEVENAGE * SOLIHULL
FREEHOLD PROPERTIES
WIDE SELECTION
Exhibition Details:
Lepios Estates
0181-340 8096 8761

FRANCE

ALL FRANCE inc. Paris & Alps. 1000s of properties, for details call 0171 386 7240.

GERF
in Gascony. Period dwelling near Toulouse, 2 bedrooms, dining room/kitchen, shower room/wc, furnished.
£19,000
Tel: 01264 332775
(Evenings).

PORT GRIMAUD, NEAR ST TROPEZ
Lovely four bedroom, two bathroom terraced home with mooring. Fully furnished to high standard. English speakers available to look after home. Ready to walk in! £295,000.
For further details, call:
0171 235 7555
or fax: 0171 235 7287

FRANCE

BUY without Commission. Free/ Executive regularly, at your house, a selection of real estate correspondent to your demand. Fax (33) 4 67 49 63 19, or write to: Le Partenaire Européen 34297 Montpellier cedex 5/France www.immat.fr/pe

CANNES Croisette lux mod sml ap Cactus beach, gge, high rental income £65k. 01944 892110.

CHARENTE MARITIME: new Bats. Burgundy & Normandy mod All styles all prices.01798 874499

FREE TICKETS to World Of Property. UK'S largest overseas property show. 0181 542 9088

NORMANDY Bast'd Manor hse & studio + bakery, 2 acre £90,000 Dunne Abroad 0171 491 4692

VALBONNE/OPIO
Modern luxury 2 bedrm, 2 shower room villa, open plan reception, air-conditioning, patio, small garden. Garage. Pool & tennis court in quiet exclusive complex. Golf nearby.
Part furnished.
FF 850,000.
Tel: 01388 814417
Fax: 01388 811466

SOUTHWEST FRANCE
Between Biarritz and Cap Breton, close to beaches and autoroute, 10 miles from airport, one hour drive to ski slopes. Fully Renovated 18th Century Country House on landscaped grounds of 3/4 acre, spacious and light inside, 10 rooms, 3 fireplaces, living area 2,000sq. ft, double garage, outbuildings. Price 1,900,000 FF.
Contact owner in Canada:
Home:001 514 455 2870
Fax: 001 514 455 0383

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION
20TH, 21ST, 22ND MARCH 1998
FRI. 11.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SAT. 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM
THE SOLIHULL CONFERENCE & BANQUETING CENTRE, HOMER ROAD, SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM B91 3QN
Organised by FPX, 26 Lambton Road, London SW20 0LR.
Telephone: 0181 944 5530. Visit our website: http://www.french-property-news.com
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITION FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

NR EVIAN Ski resort, 2 bed Apt, 2 balconies. Undgrnd pkg. £65,000. 0181 2542690

VINEYARD, Coustines de Nimes, 17C Bastide + cour hôtage, 42hs bordering canal. Price £.5.5M. Selection of vineyards avail. Labaux & Land 0181 905 3066

MAGICAL CHATEAU POITOU CHARENTE
15th/16th Century Chateau, sep. 15th Century tower, magnificent barns in ivy, superbly renovated 3 bed house, en suite bathrooms, gas fired AGA. 12 acres, stream, on edge of village.
2,500,000FF
Tel: (00 33 5) 49 87 91 99

BRITTANY
Between Dinard & Dinan on River Rance. Lux riverside home,restored & modernised, 5 beds, 4 bathrms en suite. 2 sitting rms. Recep rms. etc. 200 yr old brother on 4 hrs. Garden 1/2 acre. Gge. Fully furn/ equipped. CH. Security system. English & French TV. No agency fees. £255,000 inc. all legal fees & FHLD conveyancing court. Tel 0117 973 7167/ Fax 946 7211 for brochure.

GREECE

CRETE (WEST) Best selection of stone houses, ruins & land. Real Crete Props 01865 358001

FRANCE

IRELAND

COUNTY Tyrone bordering Donegal. Cosy semi det bungalow, 3 bedrooms, liv, quiet village. £48,000. 01905 885892

KINSALE- Schoolhouse, cottage, new townhouse. Old Grove Hse, Restaurant. +353 021 772388

PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago & surroundings, Villa Sol and Carvoeiro Golf, luxury villas & apartments new & resale. Palace Properties International 01628 778841

MOWLEM
Exclusive golf and country club properties
Algarve Portugal
From £80,000 to £500,000
Viewing weekends available
Contact us now for a brochure
Tel: 01737 242259
Fax: 01737 226149
www.altoclub.com
alto@altoclub.com
ALTO Golf & Country Club

PORTUGAL

FREE TICKETS to World Of Property. UKs largest overseas property show. 0181 542 9088

QUINTA DO LAGO 4 seasons fairways. One week Thursdays and June 2 bed/2 bath Villa & Golf, pool, £9,000. 01782 810939.

SPAIN

FREE TICKETS to World Of Property. UKs largest overseas property show. 0181 542 9088

PUERTO BANUS, 2 bed, villa, at Alcos Golf, £350,pw. Tel: 0181 942 1578.

FINE PROPERTIES OVERSEAS
SPAIN & THE BALEARICS
Costa Del Sol Marbella, P Banus, Elviria, Estepona, Mijas; San Pedro, Sotogrande, Valderrama, San Roque, Duquesa/Manilva & Jimena...
Costa Blanca Villas with pools & stunning views in Javea, Moraira, Benidorm & Benitachell.
Costa Brava Torremolinos - Golf villas under 12hrs from UK by car or train.
Mallorca Andratx, Sandhurst, Deya, Palma, P Polensa, S Ponsa.
Menorca All areas, plus brand new front line villas at P Addaya with pool.
PORTUGAL
Praia D'or, Rio Nevrest golf & country club resort - right on the beach.
ALSO
Gibraltar, Caribbean and the Alsatian Riviera of France
Prices from £80,000 - £4million
WORLD CLASS HOMES Free(phone 0800 908984
International: +44 181 553 6294 e-mail: worldclasshomes@dial.pipex.com

USA

FLORIDA Orlando Disney Dr, lux apartments, sleeps up to 10, fully furnished, maid service, heated pool, tennis and recreation. £135,000. Tel: 0161 929 4893.

FREE TICKETS to World Of Property. UK'S largest overseas property show. 0181 542 9088

FLORIDA HOMES Orlando and Gulf Coast. Guaranteed rental schemes. FPA 01202 884460

TIMESHARE OVERSEAS

SAVE£'s
Marbella, Spain, 5 Star Four Season Country Club Resort- 1 week for 4/5pple+pool, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, accomodates 8. £5,980 or exchange for West Coast USA or Hawaii property
Write:Phil Johnson
W. 816 Hastings Rd
Spokane, Wash, 99218

RETIREMENT HOMES

Change your view of retirement
- visit a Courtyard today
English Courtyard lead the way, with beautifully landscaped gardens and very spacious houses & flats so you can really relax in your retirement.
For nearly twenty years, English Courtyard have built some of the finest properties in many of the prettiest market towns and villages throughout England.
Prices from £155,000 - £295,000 - Currently in Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Essex, Surrey, Warwickshire & West Sussex - Soon in Hampshire & Wiltshire
Call 0800 220 858 quoting ref NE9 or write
Visit our website - www.englishcourtyard.co.uk
Office: 8 Holland Street Kensington London W8 4LT
English Courtyard

OVERSEAS & UK TIMESHARE

STOP!
Already Buying? Don't Until You've Read This!
The Timeshare Hypermarket 'GIVEAWAY!'
CHOICE We have a huge selection of luxury Villas & Apartments in 78 Countries
PRICE We sell at below 25% of normal retail price or even less
SECURITY All transactions are handled by independent Solicitors and conducted under English Law
Own from £695 per week
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Limited offer call now! To avoid disappointment
0800 074 70 71
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
IF SELLING, WE NEED YOUR WEEKS - BUYERS WAITING - NO REGISTRATION FEES

OVERSEAS & UK TIMESHARE

TIMESHARE
Keeping Timeshare fair.
For more information, call us on 0171 821 8845 quoting ref:

TIMESHARE COMPUTER LINK
VALENTINE SPECIALS

COUNTRY	RESORT	SLEEPS	SEASON	PRICE
POINTS	GRAND VACATION CLUB		FROM	55 per point
WALES	RAVEN COURT	8	MAY	1,795
SCOTLAND	KILCHOMAR	8	AUGUST	1,750
ENGLAND	WINDERMERE MARINA	6	HIGH	1,650
ENGLAND	BROOME PARK	6	JULY	2,750
ENGLAND	FLAMSFORD PRIORY	6	JULY	2,850
EMIRATES	BARBARI ELMERS COURT	8	XMAS	3,290
AUSTRIA	ALPINE COURT	4	MARCH	3,950
SPAIN	Four Seasons Marbella	8	HIGH	2,800
TENERIFE	CL. HOLIDAY CLUB	6	OCTOBER	850
TENERIFE	PALM BEACH CLUB	6	AUGUST	1,650
MALTA	TOPAZ BEACH CLUB	6	AUGUST	1,650
MALTA	SUNNY COAST RESORT	6	AUGUST	1,650
MAJOR	HALLAND INTERNATIONAL	6	JUNE	1,650
U.S.A	VISTANA	6	HIGH	3,250
U.S.A	WESTGATE	10	MAY	4,500
MAJOR	IMPERIAL VACATION CLUB	6	HIGH	2,450

LOOKING TO BUY AT OTHER DESTINATIONS CALL AND ASK !
07000 784 778
FREE REGISTRATION FOR SELLERS
FREE NATIONAL ADVERTISING
FREE INTERNET LISTING

هكذا من الاصل

A VET WRITES

Q My six-year-old springer spaniel was castrated about two years ago and shortly afterwards developed wet eczema. This cleared up after treatment. Recently, sore patches have recurred and he has started to lick and scratch them. Has the eczema returned or could it be worms, an allergy or anal-gland problems?

A I am sure your springer's skin trouble is totally unrelated to either castration or worms — and it is unlikely that anal glands are part of the problem. Wet eczema is an acute allergy, commonly triggered off by a reaction to flea saliva. A hypersensitive dog may produce an intense skin reaction after a couple of flea bites. Visit your vet.

Q We have recently rescued an 18-month-old collie-cross and I would love to do agility training with her, but when the vet checked her over he told me she had a slow heart rate (90). Is this likely to influence the amount of exercise she can manage?

A The pulse rate of normal dogs is generally quoted as 100-130 per minute, but 90 is not very slow and could indicate a super-fit dog. Your collie's heart does not need to work hard when she is at rest — and it follows that there are plenty of beats in reserve when hard exercise demands a good supply of blood pumped into her muscles. Your vet is the best person to answer this question.

Q I have two Siamese sisters, nine years old. Both are fit and well, but one of them has gone blind. Her eyes look completely normal — there is no cloudiness or other visible difference. She seems perfectly happy but I would like her to be able to see again.

A Someone has to look into your cat's eyes with an ophthalmoscope, an instrument that projects a beam of light into the eye. This will show any abnormalities within the eyeball. I am not optimistic, but a veterinary ophthalmologist could prove me wrong. In any event, your blind cat has her sister as a guide-cat, and I am sure this helps.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

Look what the cat dragged in

Britain's most lethal felines are wreaking havoc on small mammals. **Carol Price** reports

Missy from Blandford, Dorset, is a very bad cat — or a pretty smart one, depending on how you view these things. And Kipper from Taunton could soon be renamed The Terminator. In a recent Mammal Society survey, where 800 British cat owners detailed what their pets caught and killed over a six-month period, Missy and Kipper emerge as two of the highest scorers of all time, with over 200 victims between them.

As Michael Woods of the Mammal Society processes their grisly tally — "rabbit, rabbit, shrew, vole, swallow, mouse, mouse, mole . . . it goes on for page after page" — you could understand him feeling a bit depressed. But he thinks the study will be a valuable indicator, "not just of the impact domestic cats have on small native wildlife but also how much they might be depriving other rival predators, such as foxes and barn owls".

Sadly Missy, a six-year-old black and white female, lacks a sense of ecological balance. Her owner, Hilary Pike, admits that "in the past two or three years she has really gone to town. We often think, my goodness, there can't be anything else left in the garden."

The size of prey, says Kipper's owner, Sara Gomm, does not matter to this marauding four-year-old neutured male. "We once came home to find an adult rabbit trying to climb our grandfather clock. How Kipper got it in through the catflap we'll never know."

Many owners have long viewed hunting as one of the least appealing aspects of cat behaviour. Their concerns range from the aesthetic — ghastly little corpses on the bedroom carpet — to a sense that they are wittingly nurturing the small species equivalent of Attila the Hun.

Depending on what study you read — and there have been several in recent years, by everyone from biologists to pet-food firms — domestic cats are responsible for killing between 70 million and 200 million birds and small mammals in this country each year.

In Britain, we have yet to see the level of anti-cat feeling now at large in Australia. Accusations that, since first arriving on convict ships in the late 19th century, they have wiped out nine native species, led to one MP there last year proposing "the total eradication of all cats in Australia by 2020".

As more and more condemnatory fingers are pointed at domestic cats by conservation lobbies, is there a possibility we could be going that way? Leading cat expert and author Roger Tabor fears there is.

In recent years, he says, he has seen the domestic cat become more and more of an ecological scapegoat among conservationists, while human evils such as cars, pesticides and the destruction of natural habitats have done far more to decimate small wildlife populations.

"There has been a ludicrous but growing move to demonise the cat for its wildness, as if being a predator now is suddenly immoral and politically incorrect, when in fact it is, and has always been, a perfect normal thing for any carnivorous animal to be," he says.

On a recent trip to America, where he believes such thinking is most prevalent, Mr Tabor was appalled by the impact it appeared to have had on the resident cat population: "Many are surgically declawed so they can't scratch anything and most are kept indoors so they can't catch anything. They are virtual captive toys, and all that has resulted from cats being kept in this way are massive behavioural crises."

Mr Tabor thinks the number of birds and small mammals killed in this country by cats each year is nearer 20 million and that most survey compilers fail to allow for the far greater amount of prey caught by rural cats — such as Missy and Kipper — than urban ones. "Rural cats always have far greater territorial ranges and a wider availability of prey. Few urban cats catch more than two things a year, and most of this country's cats live in towns."

Meanwhile Mrs Pike, who has only just got over the spectacle of Missey "dragging two huge new sucker fish ceremoniously out of the pond, before our very eyes", and Mrs Gomm, whose Kipper "likes to bring his own voles to our barbecues", seem unworried by their cats' excessive prowess.

The owners say they rescue anything that is brought in alive and both stress that "as country people we appreciate that hunting is just the way of the world". But Missy and Kipper be warned. If they ever get a Hunting Bill introduced, you're going to be in trouble.

● *The Mammal Society, 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG (0171-498 4358). For details of their Mammal Action Cat Survey send an sae.*

TIPS FOR DAMAGE LIMITATION

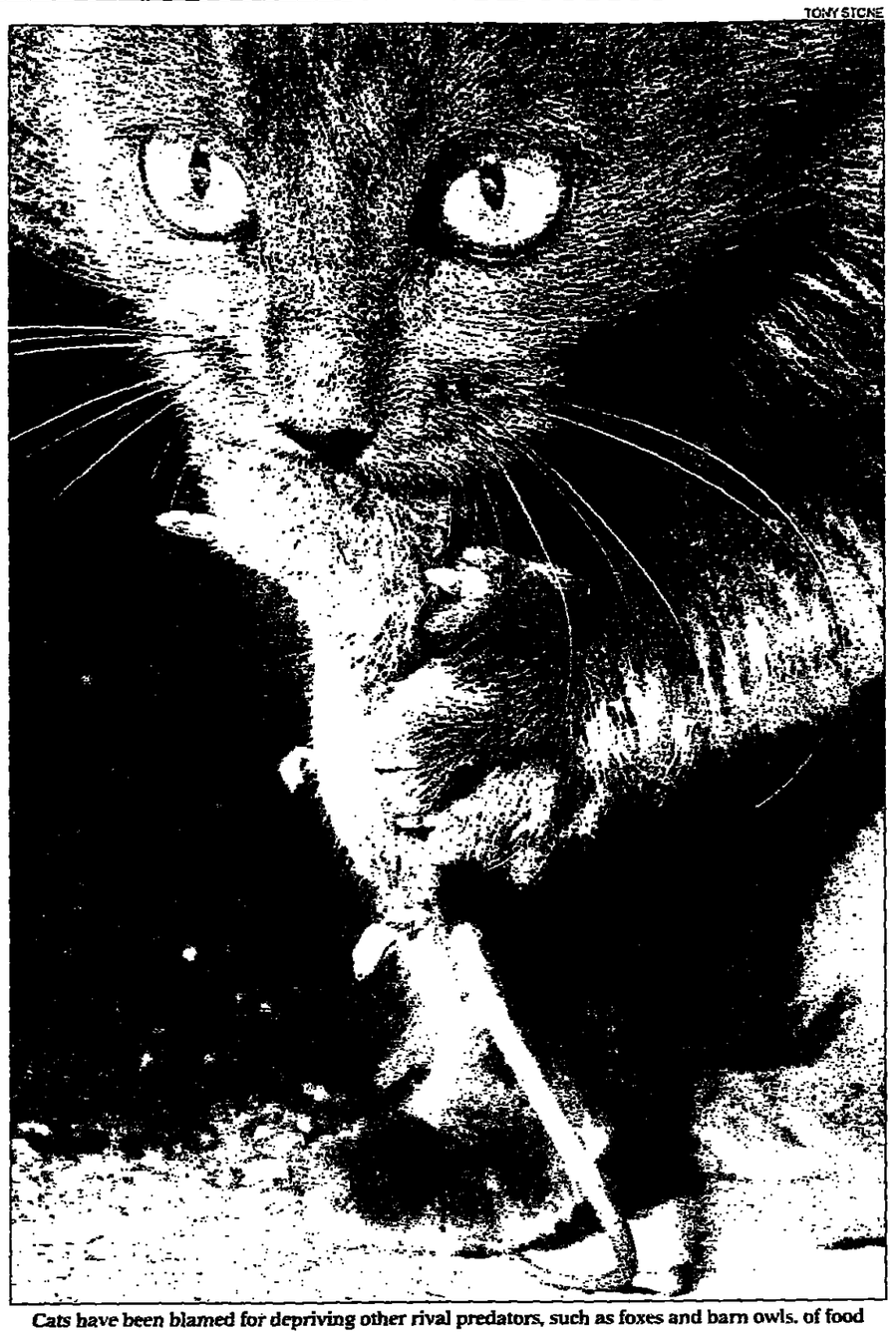
- Never put food on the ground for birds when cats are in the area.
- Don't put bird tables near walls or any place from which cats can jump on to them. Put restraining edges on bird tables to minimise spillage on to the ground — where feeding birds will be vulnerable.
- Bells on collars (elasticated) sometimes work but cats learn to muffle the bell by tucking in their chins.
- Night hunting can be curbed by keeping cats in.
- Put nets over ponds.
- Should prey be brought in alive, rescue it in these least-stressful ways: for a bird, darken the room to subdue it, then throw over a very light coat; for mouse or small mammal, lay a Wellington boot lengthways against a wall — it will always head for it.

WHAT THEY KILLED

What Missy and Kipper caught over a six-month period last year

Missy		Kipper
22	mice	21 mice/voles (too mangled to tell)
19	field mice	15 bank voles
18	pygmy shrews	12 baby rabbits
17	sparrows	8 field mice
9	field voles	7 pygmy shrews
5	adult rabbits	3 field voles
4	pygmy shrews	6 goldfish
3	moles	2 adult rabbits
3	rats	1 great tit
2	chaffinches	1 house sparrow
2	goldfinches	1 songthrush
2	large sucker fish	1 blackbird
1	thrush	1 magpie
1	pied wagtail	1 swallow
1	wren	
1	"bird" (unrecognisable)	
15	baby rabbits	
Total: 125		Total: 82

● *Note: Many victims were subsequently rescued and released*



TONY STONE

Cats have been blamed for depriving other rival predators, such as foxes and barn owls, of food



KOBAL

Dark, handsome male seeks playmate

Meeting women is no problem – if you're a dog, says **David Wilson**

Jack can pull almost any woman in the place without trying. He just walks over, gives them one of his looks, and they reach out to him. He doesn't even have to say anything, which is just as well, since he is a labrador.

When we are out together, I am reduced to the role of the Ugly Friend. Jack gets the attention and the interest; even when his admirers start to speak to me, it is to ask about him. Just lately, watching him in action in a north London café, it occurred to me that he never used to seek out women to sit beside. I am getting suspicious. I think he is trying to fix me up.

I have joint custody of Jack these days. Part of the time he is at my flat, and the rest of his week is spent with my ex-girlfriend and her new bloke in south London. Our exchanges of the dog take place on Blackfriars Bridge, rather like a scene from an old Cold War movie where a defector is being released. He was a little confused at first, but he has adapted to his double life. He just seems to feel that I need someone else.

A wise, old, black labrador can always win friends. If a man walks alone in the countryside and says hello to someone, they look at him as if he is an axe murderer. If he walks with a labrador, people smile and say hello first. On a train ride, Jack climbed on to the seat beside me and refused to budge, just as a tough-looking inspector approached. The man stopped, patted Jack, and said: "He can stay there. When my wife left me, my dog was my best friend in the world."

Jack has developed a routine. A couple of times a day he sits next to a woman, looks at me, looks at her, then back at me, so that I have to go over to him. And he is so indiscriminate. Anything in heels, really. It's bad enough when you are newly unattached and your friends say "Oh you must meet Gertrude/Angela/Simone, she's wonderful", but at least they know the woman.

If Jack must do this, it would be better if there were a way to train him to approach the right ones. No, Jack, not her, go to the willowy one reading the book. Maybe I should force him to watch a few Michelle Pfeiffer videos to get the picture.



GILL ALLEN

David Wilson and Jack win friends out for a walk

Dog lovers have a natural bond

HEAVY PETTING

OWNERS are encouraged to take the lead in their pets' romantic lives by a new book from America. *The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies for Dogs and Cats* offers "ways to spark romance" including:

- Start males young — ideally before 18 months — with an experienced partner.
- Send the female one of the male's toys at her home, to get her used to his scent.
- Introduce them at his place, to spare his nerves.
- Give them time to get to know each other, a quiet atmosphere, some privacy, and no slippery floors.

● *The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies for Dogs and Cats (£20.70 incl p&p) is published by Rodale Books, Marlborough Road, Aldbourne, Wilts SN8 2HP (01672 542257).*

ADOPT ME



SADIE (above) is a six-year-old crossbreed who was found as a stray 18 months ago. She has a good temperament and is affectionate and would be happy in a family home with older children and other dogs. If you would like to adopt Sadie, please contact the NCDL at Bridgend, South Wales (01656 652771).

PROPERTY

LONDON RENTALS

AIR - YOU - Visiting London? Central Entrance have quality flats and houses in Central London for long or short term rentals: 0171 224 2773.

BARBICAN EC1: Studio flat, 2nd flr, lift, no cats, £375 pw. Brook Page Stock 0171 251 4171.

BARBICAN EC2. Selection of 1, 2 and 3 bed apts from £250pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

VISITING LONDON FOR 2-12 WEEKS

Tastefully furnished and south facing Apartment in Fulham is available to central London who can supply 1st class references. Very quiet with rural outlook. 2 dbl beds, Bath, Silver Rooms, Dressing room, Dining room, Kit/B'Fast rm. 1st class security, communal gdns o/look river. Adjacent to Hurlingham Club. Close to tube/10 mins W.End.

Tel: 0171 7363450 for rates

BROOMSBURY Lux 1ge bed new 2nd FF lse conv nr tube £325 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

CHELSEA HARBOUR, 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, lux flat, sec. pkg, video entry £300pw 0976 421685

CHISWICK W12, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom (1 en), dble recep, semi det house, conservatory, new kitchen, 90ft SW facing garden with sundeck, gardener incl, immaculate. 5 mins tube. £450pw. Tel: 0976 634790

CHISWICK VILLAGE 2 bedrm flat in PB block, lge bale, Ute room, newly refurb, Mr. rdrs/refs £10 rabs/0275 pw, 0181 995 1308/0976 568313.

CITY & Bloomsbury/WC1. Comprehensive list of 1/2 bed flats/studios apts fr £250pw Bruford Sabyl Carr. 0171 250 1012

CITY/ISLINGTON EC1. New refurb 2/3 bed/ 2 bath. £500pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

CITY Lux lge bed new 1 & 2 bd FF pkg port nr tube £260-£400 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

CLERKENWELL V Lux lge bed new 2 & 3bd 2bth FF sec pkg nr tube post £425-£650 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

COVENT GARDEN Period 1 bed flat, fully furn, nr Strand & tube, £315pw. 0171 395 5100

DOCKLANDS Lux lge bed new 2 & 3bd 2bth FF pkg nr DLR fr £280 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

EARLS CT New 3 bed uniform line in views, lge kit, 2 bths sec. £700pw. 0171 395 5100

EAST SHEEN SW14 (Royals). Mid terr 2 bed t/frame cottage, 20 mins Waterloo. £1200 pcm. Avail April. 0181 8787050.

FULHAM Lovely 1 bed garden flat incl. gas log fire, conservatory 28ft/6m int, new dec, nr tennis etc £240pw. 0171 736 7735.

ISLINGTON Bed new lux 1ge 2 bd 2 bth FF pkg nr tube fr £300 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

ISLINGTON Stunning 2 bed D/F, gdn, equipped fit. £295pw. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

K and C Wharf SE16. River view, bale pont hse, 3 beds, 3 baths, lux fit, pool, pkng, unfurnd. £330pw. Tel: 0171 394 9194.

KENSINGTON W8 Lux mews house, 3 beds, 2 baths, GCH, £575pw. Tel: 0181 3353873

KENSINGTON MANS, SW5. 2/3 beds, lux flat, wood floors, £525pw. TLC 0171 370 4000

KINGS RD 2 min. Lux lge 1 bd FF port ser pkg nr tube £275pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

KNIGHTSBRIDGE Garden Sq. luxury period 2 bed flat with character. Unfurn. £245pw. 0171 781 5808/ 0468 786005.

LANCASTER GATE New lux 1ge 2bd 2bth FF/OF nr tube fr £360 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

MAIDA VALE Bal new lux 1ge 1 & 2bd FF ser pkg port fr £250 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

MAYFAIR V lux 1ge bkd new 2bd 2bth FF nr tube. £450pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

PIMLICO SW1 2 bdrm/2 bathrm house, furn, CH, terrace, good decor, avail 1st month. £475pw. 0171 630 8949/ 01297 35794.

SLOANE Cresnell Gdns. New 2 bed, 2 recep LIFEURN, high ceilings, fine leading (Beauty etc) area. £1,100 pw Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 991/t 344 7830/

SOUTH KENSINGTON, SW7. 2 beds/ 2 bath, furn, uniform, £625pw. TLC 0171 370 4000

ST JOHNS WOOD Modern spac family townhouse, uniform, 4 dbl bed, 2 baths, 2 recepts, kit/b'fastrm, garage, patio, nr tube, £750 pw. 0171 395 5100

ST JOHNS WOOD Period 2 bed flat 2 bath new kit, newly refurb. £360pw.0171 395 5100

SW1 Belgravia Const. Ult lux 2 dbl bed, 2 porterbs, £475pw. 0171 256 1611/07000 660841

SW10 Imman 2 bed period flat, newly dec & furn, patio, nr tube, £375pw. 0171 395 5100

SW7 Lux lge new 2bd 2bth FF pkg port nr tube £375-£550 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

SW10 New refurb 1 bed, dble recep, £250pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

W2 Bayswater. Clean bedsit, own access. Suitable for quiet, prof. gentleman. 0171 727 2154.

W9 Close to British Museum lge 4 bed house 3 recepts, conservatory just refurbished, unfurn £1,100pw. 0171 792 2053

WEST KEN 1 bedroom furnished Lge floor flat with balcony. £190pw. 0958 990781.

COUNTRY RENTALS

E ANGLIA seaside cottage 2 b/rm 50 mls London. £550pcm. 01451 788451/788273 fax 788244

EASTBOURNE Director's 5/bed house. £185pw. Tel: 01323 508643

NR TUNBRIDGE WELLS Kent, 16C manor hse, pic vill loc, 7 bed, lge gdns, £1,750 pcm. 0181 3061012

OXFORDSHIRE Oxford 9 miles, A40 (J12) 9 miles. Attractive farmhouse within the ground flr a country estate. Hall, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, utility room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 shower rooms. Newly restored and refurbished. Outbuildings, garage. Private garden. Unfurnished. Rather Blenheim (01993) 822226

To Advertise: TEL: 0171 680 6122

ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

FAX: 0171 782 7799

RIDING HOLIDAYS

Andaluz Adventure

Costa de la Luz in S W Spain.

Holidays with superb riding in unspoilt countryside and miles of empty beaches. Fit horses, good cuisine, large pool, non-riders welcome. Open all year.

For colour brochure and full details from Jamie Harvey-Hall

01935 817567

Only in the Times Animals & Accessories For the best in quality products and services for your pets. Every Saturday in Weekend 0171 680 6122

TURTLE DIRT TRAPPER MATS

At last - as seen at Crufts and shows nationwide - the door mat that really works! No more muddy footprints or pawmarks on clean floors and carpets! Turtle Dirt Trapper door mats stop dirt at the door of home, conservatory or car with absorbent cotton pile removing wet, dry and even greasy dirt from shoes and paws. With non-slip latex backing, they are fully machine washable at 40C. Also available with gripper-rubber backing for use on carpets - please call for details of gripper-rubber mat sizes and prices. Available in seven colours and 3 sizes:

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Blue, Green, Black/White, Fawn, Dark Grey, Seal Brown, Black/Brown

75cm x 50cm - £17.95 75cm x 100cm - £34.95 75cm x 150cm - £49.95

Plus £3.50 P&P per mat

from Turtle Mat CO (Dept TT 0702 — JH & CL Turtle)

92a Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HT

Tel: 0181 296 0366 Fax: 0181 296 0360

PENTHOUSE PENS

This is just one of our wide range of pens for cats. Standard sizes range from the quick folding 'Flatlet' at 30"x26"x30" up to the walk in 'Domain' at 6'x6'x6'. Alternatively, we will create a pen to your own design.

Constructed from UPVC, Twilweld hot dip galvanised mesh and stainless steel fixings, the pens are manufactured with hygiene and long life in mind and are suitable for inside and outside use. We have many satisfied customers in all areas of the cat world, from pet owners, to cat breeders and cat welfare organisations. We also supply catteries with holding pens for which comply with local Authority and E.U. regulations. Easilyn collapsible, the pens are despatched in flat pack and are simple to erect. Pens are now available in all White and all Black as well as the standard Grey tube with White fittings.

All major credit cards accepted

For brochures, prices or more information, contact:- PENTHOUSE PRODUCTS LIMITED., Riverside House, Creeton Road, Little Bytham, Grantham NG33 4PR. Tel/Fax: 01780 410313

DOGS

BEAUTIFUL Bulldog puppies, KC registered, 1st Vet wormed, fawn/White, 11 wks old, home reared, approved homes only. £900. Tel: 01793 496286

IRISH SETTER puppies, show champion sire, KC reg, tattooed and insured, show or pet, contact Annette 0115 978 7405

ENGLISH Pointer puppies, Kennel club registered insured and vaccinated, carefully reared Tel: 01424 838520

ACCESSORIES

AQUAPLANCTON

For a crystal clear pond. Algae & blanketweed disappear. Safe for all forms of water life. For free brochure and price list. Phone: 01449 774532 anytime or send approx. Surface area of your pond to:-

AQUAPLANCTON

Clavering Cottage, Little London Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2ES

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Phone .....

Pond surface ..... sqft

Does your pond have? Please tick

Koi carp		Full Sun	
Blanketweed		Algae	
Greenwater		Murky water	
Sludge		Odour	
Clogged filters		Ducks	

City Lets International

Tel: 0171 488 1458 Fax: 0171 481 8402

MAIDA VALE, W9

Selection of luxury brand new one and two bedroom apartments, high specification, furnished or unfurnished, 24 hour porter and secure parking, available immediately.

£260-£500 per week

To view contact:

Tel: 0171 289 3481 Fax: 0171 289 5381

A meal to remember



Ruth Gledhill joins a Jewish family for an early Passover festival

FEBRUARY is a little early for Passover, the festival which commemorates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. In line with Jewish tradition, Merle Weinbrenn, a music teacher from Hampstead, North London, has for 34 years of marriage cooked a Passover meal for her husband Gerald, a radiologist, and their family.

Her culinary skills are exceptional but she was looking forward to escaping the task when she and her husband took a holiday abroad in April. She did not count on a friend, Cathy Fischgrund, an editor with the publishers Frances Lincoln, persuading her to bring the Seder (the ceremonial Passover dinner) forward two months to launch a new Haggadah (the Passover liturgy), with illustrations copied from medieval texts in the British Library.

As we sat down to pray, sing and eat, I pondered the prophetic meaning of a medieval illustration of the hand of God raining manna from heaven down on tribes fleeing Egypt 1,300 years before the Christian era.

Around the table was an assembly of Muslims, Christians and Jews, and guiding us through the ritual was Rabbi Michael Shire, editor of the new Haggadah and director of London's centre for Jewish education. Next to him sat his wife, Marcia Plumb, also a rabbi.

In the centre of the table was a symbolic Seder plate. On this was some *maror*, sliced horseradish root (its bitter taste a reminder of the Israelites' suffering in Egypt), a roasted boiled egg to symbolise birth and some *haroset*, a combination of apples, nuts and cinnamon, a reminder of the mortar the Israelis used to build storehouses for the Egyptians. There was also an orange. Rabbi Plumb explained that this was a relatively new addition which came into being when the controversy over whether women could be ordained rabbis was raging and a man protested that "a woman belongs in the pulpit like an orange belongs on the Seder plate".

Only unleavened bread is used at Passover, reminding Jewish people today that the flight from Egypt was so fast that there was no time to wait for bread to rise.

The commentary explained that Abraham was the first to recognise there was only one God, and in return God promised to protect the Israelites. This began the special relationship the Jewish people have with God, "based on moral responsibility, justice and compassion".

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

RABBI: Dr Michael Shire

SERMON: Illuminating analysis throughout from Rabbi Shire. ★★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Homely. ★★★

MUSIC & LITURGY: Questions, psalms, stories, prayers and blessings. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Eternal and merciful. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Four-course Passover meal with laughter, fun and games. ★★★★★

● The Illuminated Haggadah, *in association with the British Library (Frances Lincoln, £17.99.*

● The Times *is inviting entries for the 1998* Times *Preacher of the Year Award. Details on 0171-782 5001.*

GILL ALLEN



The Passover meal symbolises the flight from Egypt

Heaven is not their only goal; **Noam Friedlander** meets London's footballing nuns

GILL ALLEN



The rule of silence is abandoned during matches



The nuns of Tyburn Convent turned to football because they found tennis dangerous — they kept being hit by balls

We've got God on our side

The noise of rush-hour traffic along the Bayswater Road cannot be heard in the gardens of Tyburn Convent, where the Benedictine nuns are preparing for their recreation period.

St Benedict, AD 480-543, tried to bring his devoted monks close to the presence of God through a balanced routine of liturgical prayer, study, and physical work. In his *Rules* for the lives of Benedictine monks, he wrote: "Run while you have the light of life", but the Italian hermit probably did not imagine that his followers would do so with a ball at their feet. Yet each afternoon the nuns of Tyburn get into the soccer habit.

The Prioress, Mother Simeon, "Tyburn's answer to Pelé", is hitching up her skirt on the lawn, using the buttons on a habit designed for work in the fields rather than the rough and tumble of Association Football. Ten enthusiastic teammates follow her, dressed in their unusual strip of habit and wimple.

The rule of silence allows the nuns to speak only "from charity or necessity". But, during their exercise period, silence is abandoned for an hour as giggles accompany tentative kicks from sandalled feet. The squeals intensify with each boot of the ball.

While older nuns promenade sedately on the pathways around the lawn, the young and able race up and down the uneven grass. There are no proper teams and there are frequent suspicions of handball and dangerous tackles from behind, but the spirit is one of genuine competition. It is an incongruous sight perhaps but, as the Mother General admits: "They're letting off steam."

The intense focus of prayer for this convent is the Marble Arch site of the Tyburn gallows, where 105 Catholic martyrs perished between 1534 and 1681. The Benedictine Order emphasises enclosure and stability, the need to study scripture and co-operation between convent officials. At Tyburn, the nuns spend six hours a day praying or singing Gregorian chants, three and a half hours at work in the laundry or kitchen and one hour on recreation.

Though an enclosed convent, nuns are allowed outside the gates to vote, visit sick members of their family, as well as the dentist, optician or doctor. "The doctor couldn't believe it," says one sister, "when he found that the gash on a nun's foot was a football injury." A young nun sitting on the sidelines is obviously another casualty.

"When I was back home in Slovakia, I used to play football with the children," Sister Petra says. "My brother's favourite team was Manchester United."

Mother Simeon, from Coatbridge, Scotland, intimates that there is at least one true football fanatic who always reads the sports pages — albeit quietly.

Mother Michael Mary says: "I follow Celtic. I look for their results every week." The nun, a former civil servant, started going to matches at the age of 16. She supported Kilmarnock for 20 years before she entered the convent seven years ago. "I went to all the home and away matches — I never missed a match — but Kilmarnock don't get as much publicity as Celtic. I hardly know anything about them now."

Football was introduced to the convent after complaints that the nuns' tennis matches were too dangerous — the older nuns kept getting hit by the ball. However, the combination of sport and the cloistered life is not unique to Tyburn. Though spirituality and a contemplative life of prayer are important elements of the nunnery, so are health and exercise. St Benedict believed that idleness was the enemy of the soul.

At the Priory of Our Lady of Peace, another Benedictine convent, in Turvey, Bedfordshire, Sister Zoe says: "We play games or we go for walks. In summer it's not unusual for us to kick a football around or use the ping-pong table."

The Carmelite nuns in Rathbuck, Dublin, go for long walks in their recreation periods and work out by cycling up and down the paths of their 40-acre estate. In American convents, rollerblading has become the latest craze.

Catholicism and football are closely linked: the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain is a passionate Newcastle United supporter. Cardinal Hume has been following the team since 1931 and can still remember where he was standing in the 1955 Cup Final against Manchester City when Jackie Milburn scored.

"The Cardinal certainly knows his football," says Mother Michael Mary. "My ideal," the Cardinal says, "is a good Catholic and a good footballer who can also play cricket."

When the Cardinal visits the convent to celebrate its centenary next month he will find some nuns keen for a kick-about. It may be premature to talk of an officially sanctioned Football League for sporty nuns. But no better candidate exists for its president than the Pope — a wizard goalkeeper in his youth.

Lessons in humanity on a Portuguese pilgrimage

Credo

JOHN HALDANE



Last year I went with a philosopher colleague to the ancient University of Coimbra in Portugal. The university was founded in 1290 and became the centre of "the golden age of scholasticism" — the period in the 16th century when, particularly in the Iberian peninsula, the blend of Catholic theology and rationalistic philosophy developed in the Middle Ages was distilled to produce a refined and potent brew.

Christianity was never more intellectualised, though the time and place were also ones of intense and poetic spirituality. St John of the Cross was trained in the theology of Aquinas, yet he burned with mystical passion and produced three of the greatest poems in the Spanish language.

Not having been to Portugal before, I inquired about the whereabouts of Fatima. This is the famous site of a series of Marian apparitions in 1917, the witnesses to which were three illiterate children: Jacinta, Marto and Lucia. As it turns out, the town is on the road from Lisbon to Coimbra and so I prevailed upon our Portuguese hosts to make a stop there. The town is brashly commercial. Souvenir shops and hotels feature crude images of the Virgin Mary in all sizes and varieties of plastic and clay. As one approaches the shrine, these give way to the area of the Cova da Iria, a large hollow in which the apparitions occurred. At one end of this stands a basilica, and to one side there is a glass chapel on the site where Mary is said to have appeared.

At the last line of shops before the Cova I saw, hanging like a string of onions, a variety of wax effigies of limbs. Small and large fingers, hands, arms, feet and legs cast in wax. Some would describe these tokens of dark-age superstition as macabre. They were, of course, for sale to pilgrims seeking cures for ailments, and similar offerings could be seen at the shrine where they stood in for diseased or injured limbs.

Behind the glass chapel was a a circular stone bench. On this a dog lay snoozing beneath a plaque describing it as the place of the apparitions. I think my philosopher companions regarded the whole thing with disfavour, or at any rate they viewed it as something alien to the culture of reason. By contrast I felt I understood better how it could be that the most intense religious belief could coexist with the most rationalistic articulation of Christian doctrine. Certainly there was superstition in the medieval world and no doubt some of this remains in Catholic culture. But more important and religiously inspiring is the belief that the divine and human orders are not distinct and opposed. The message of the incarnation is that humanity and deity can and did coexist in the person of Jesus Christ.

If God can become man, may not man appeal to God in the person of Jesus as one who understands the human condition by having shared in it? Once that truth is grasped it is natural to go on and to see the saints, and the Virgin Mary supremely among them, as companions along the way to the life of the world to come. Why not put petitions before God and seek the intercession of those already in his company? The waxen limbs are poetic representations of flesh and blood. St John of the cross would well have understood that, as would the great philosophers of Coimbra.

● *John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.*

EXCLUSIVE TIMES OFFER THE TIMES



Dwarf asters at half normal price

NOW is the time to plant your dwarf asters and get them established. These strong garden plants disappear under a sea of flowers from August until the first frosts. Growing to a height of 12-15in, asters are perfect for small gardens and large pots where they will return year after year bigger and better.

We have four different varieties, on offer to *Times* readers, all separately packed and labelled so you can pick your own colour scheme: **Professor Knippenberg**, blue, **Starlight**, red, **Pink Baby**, pink, and **Snowqueen**, white.

Each pack contains six plants and costs £4.99. Or you can buy all four packs at half price, £9.98. Full instructions are included.

The Times Dwarf Asters Offer

I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) made payable to: The Times Dwarf Asters Offer FT724.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

Address

Post Code

Value No.

Please write name and address on back of all cheques.

Or debit my Access/Visa card number:

Print Name Expiry Date

Signature Date

Send coupon and remittance to *The Times* Dwarf Asters Offer FT724, PO Box 9, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 6EE. Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in UK only. * Hold responsible for returned goods lost in transit. Offer subject to availability. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. The Times cannot be you may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you, if you do not wish to participate please tick box.

PLEASE SEND ME:	QTY	£ PER ITEM	TOTALS
A – Pack of 6 Professor Knippenberg		£4.99	
B – Pack of 6 Starlight		£4.99	
C – Pack of 6 Pink Baby		£4.99	
D – Pack of 6 Snowqueen		£4.99	
Buy A, B, C and D for half price		£9.98	
Price includes postage and packing.		TOTAL COST	

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01775 710000 (24 HOURS)

Church services for tomorrow

Second Sunday before Lent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Euch: 3.15 Ch E, Wood in D.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Boreol Weddi: 11 Ch Euch, Sumsion in F: 3.15 Ch E: 5 Cymun Bendigaid.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch: 3.30 Ch E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Mass for four voices (Tallis): 4 Ch E, Clucas in F sharp.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M: 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina): 4 Ch E, Canon Hindley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 11 M: 3.30 E, Wise in E flat.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M: S HC: 10 Ch Euch, Canon P Johnson: 3.30 Ch E.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 11 S Euch: 3.15 E, Gloucester Service (Howells): 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Weber in G: 3 EP.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Bishop of Chelmsford: 11.15 Euch, Rev I Moody: 6 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, A Gaelic blessing (Rutter): 3.30 Ch E, Stanford in C.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M: 11.15 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd): 6 E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 C: 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C: 5 Ch E, Stanford in C: 7.15 City Celebration.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: S HC: 10.45 S Euch: 6 Ch E, Naylor in A.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 11.15 HC, Mass in five parts (Byrd): Canon D Brown: 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd): 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Darke in F: 11.15 M: 3 E: 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: S HC: 10.15 Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Rev G Bryant: 12.15 HC: 3 E.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch: 11.30 M: 6.30 E, Ireland in F.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch, Rheinberger in E: 11.30 M: 3.30 E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G: 3.30 E.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8, 9 Euch: 11 S Euch, White in E flat: 12.15 Euch: 3.30 Ch E, Dyson in C: 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Addington Service (Shephard): 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 9.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley): 6.30 Ch E.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8, 9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells): 3.30 E: 6.30 Euch of healing.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M: 10.30 Euch, Schubert in G: 3.30 E.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd): 11 S Euch, Canon D Isaac: 6 E.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M: 10.30 S Euch, Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Canon R Lea: 3.15 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev P Pike: 6.30 E, Rubbra in A flat.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch: 11 Ch Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé): 3 E, Chichester Service (Walton).

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 L: 8 HC: 9.30 C, The Chancellor: 11 M, Britten in C: 3.15 E, A: Save us O Lord (Bairstow).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M: 10 S Euch, Missa brevis in G (Mozart): 6 E.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 C, Canon R Gage: 11 Sol Euch, Canon B Maguire: 4 E, Canon C Dawson.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Hereford Service (Lloyd): 11.30 M, Ireland in F: 3 E, Rev R Bowman-Eadie.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M: 11.15 Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart): 3 E, Stanford in G: 5.45 Organ Recital: Stephen Le Prevost: 6.30 ES, Rev B Fenton.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass: 10.30 Sol Mass, Missa gaudeamus (Victoria): 12 Mass 2.45 Organ Recital: 3.30 Sol V & B: 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Archdeacon of Basingstoke: 11.15 S Euch: 3.30 E, Magdalene Service (Leighton).

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd): 11.30 M: 4 E, Murrill in E, Canon Prof E Norman.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Rev J C Bergquist: 11 M, Britten in C: 12.15 HC: 6.30 E, Harwood in A flat, Canon Garner.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch, Darke in A: 6.30 Ch E, Brewer in D.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, A: Greater Love (Ireland): Rev K Goulstone: 3.30 Ch E.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid: 11.15 M: 6 E.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 S Euch, Canon S Pettitt: 11.30 Ch M, Stanford in B flat: 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch: 11.15 Ch Euch, Wiltshire Service (Shephard): 7 Ch E, Horne in D minor.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM: 11.30 Sol Mass, Mass in G (Haydn), Fr G F Bradley: 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC: 11.30 MS, Rev J R McKay: 6 Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers: 8 ES, Rev K Watson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, A: Lord we beseech Thee (Batten): 6 ES, Rev R Frazer.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Rev J Cuthbert: 3.30 Ch E, Stanford in A.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch, Missa sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn): 3.15 Ch E, Stanford in A, Rev R S J H McKelvey.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 8.45 M: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev J Halliburton: 3.15 E, Wood in F, Rev D Barnett: 5 Organ Recital: David Gammie.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Jackson in G, Rev I Davies: 5.15 LM: 6 E & B, Purcell in G minor.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C: 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev R Bewes: 6.30 EP, Mr D Turner.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS, Missa brevis (Gabrieli).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's Service: 11 M: 12.15 HC: 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS: 6.30 ES, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8: 9.30 LM: 11 HM: 12.30 LM: 4.15 Mass: 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC: 11 MS, Rev S Millar: 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Mr K Costa.

HOLY TRINITY, SW1: 8.45 Euch: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Bishop Marshall.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30 Mass: 3.30 V & B, Ave verum Corpus (Josquin): 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 HC, Rev E Fletcher: 6.30 EP, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev L Heinle: 7 Bach V, Rev G Neumann.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa salvum me fac (Palestrina), The Rector: 6.30 E, A: When the Son of Man shall come (Locke).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in B flat: 6.30 Ch E, Dyson in D.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, A: The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford), Rev D Mackenzie.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev J H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Messe basse (Fauré).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Whitlock in G, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Stella Cantores, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 9.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev N Frances: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Gigue Fugue (Bach), Rev D Richards: 6.30 EP, Mr B Mansell.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch: 12.15 HC: 6.30 E, Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euch, Darke in A, Rev R McLaren.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Rev P Cowell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert: 11.30 Visitors Service: 2.45 Chinese Service: 5 Ch E: 6.30 ES, Rev S Cathie.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli: 11.15 Ch M: 12.30 HC: 6.30 E, Ms P Haines.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9.10 LM: 11 HM, Missa brevis (Lotti), Fr B Scott: 6 Sol E & B: 7 LM.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 Sol Euch, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Canon I Ainsworth-Smith.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M, Responses (Tallis).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, A: They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion), Rev A H Mead.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M, Ireland in F: 3.30 E, St John's Service (Howells).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Mass in three parts (Tyrd).

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, Collegium regale (Howells).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Mgr K Vasey, Band of the Life Guards: 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Rev R Nurton.

● *Compiled by Deborah King*

Lucy Pinney begins her reports on rural life with tales of the ultimate farmer-inventor: her husband

Where there's muck, there's brass

DOWN TO EARTH



"The trouble with farming," my husband said miserably, coming into the kitchen with a bottle of hoof-fungus treatment under one arm, "is that it's like running a cross between a hotel and a morgue. The guests are immensely fussy — they need special diets and endless dunging-out — and then, when you least expect it, they catch some foul disease and drop dead."

He has been a trifle snappy lately, ever since the BSE crisis made our entire beef herd unsaleable. Or maybe it's just that his real enthusiasm has never been for farming, but for designing and making modern agricultural machinery for carthorses.

He has been obsessed with the possibilities of heavy-horse draught for more than 30 years. He bought his first horse, a grey Percheron, as a cheap, reliable alternative to a worn-out Ferguson tractor, which kept refusing to start in the mornings. In those days, neighbouring farmers did not bother to hide their contempt for what he was doing. They all had bitter memories of the hardship involved in using carthorses and thought anyone who wanted to go back to the past was mad. One of them, Don White, did not just recall normal discomforts, such as rising at 4am to shine brasses: when he had been a small boy he'd had to get an old toothbrush and paint Stockholm Tar on the horses' moustaches every Saturday, because his father was convinced that it prevented broken wind. "Cor, didn't they hate it," he says. "They used to blow and snort. But I had to give it to them."

My husband looked at the heavy maintenance problem from a revolutionary angle: instead of spending hours self-righteously scrubbing and chalking-up the feather on the shires' legs, why not use horses that were clean-legged, such as the Ardennes? Why strip valuable waterproofing oils out of equine coats by incessant brushing? Why not get used to scruffy horses? Above all, why not invent harnesses that could be cleaned in the washing machine? (This last has not been altogether successful; there is fierce resistance in certain quarters to dungy harness going anywhere near the washing machine.)

Then he grew more ambitious and began to think about making his own equipment to go with the horses. This was essential, because all the existing stuff had either been rotting in a hedge for a quarter of a century or was being bought up at terrifying prices by public-house landlords who wanted to hang it above the bar for a bit of atmosphere.

Coming from London, when I married I saw the enterprise as deeply romantic. I loved the huge, mild-eyed horses — especially the way they stood about, looking puzzled and slightly apologetic when brought into the house for a treat at Christmas. I also assumed it was impossible for anyone to have quite as much enthusiasm as my husband without succeeding beyond their wildest dreams.

George MacPherson, an agricultural journalist, put me right when he came to interview us. He said all the inventors he had ever met were the same: they lived contentedly in tumbledown shacks and had wives whose eyes blazed with inner rage. Our life is not quite that bleak: over the years we have sold a few machines in England — Paul Heiney bought one — and the world has become a little more receptive to crazy ideas. Those same neighbours, who used to snigger when they saw us bringing in the hay with cart-horses 23 years ago, now sidle up and ask if they can have a go for old times' sake.

It is not all about nostalgia, either: there are plenty of small farmers across Europe who are interested in using horsepower for ecological reasons. We have customers in Germany who grow organic vegetables using our equipment — and are paid a 40 per cent premium for what they produce. Besides, once you get used to the leaking roofs, the damp and the lack of money, it can be fairly enjoyable being married to an inventor. For a start, most of the time he has to take on peculiar jobs to make ends meet. The wierdest was making chastity belts for a dodgy antiques dealer.

Also, the house is full of odd contraptions that work fitfully, if at all (the most recent being a woodburner that sucked all the warm air out of the house and blew it up the chimney). And I like the way my husband will disappear off to the fields with his horses, saying, vaguely, that he wants to try out a theory — and return home hours later, limping, with his overalls half torn off.

If, in our tenderest, most intimate moments, I ask him what he is thinking about, he will confess that he is wondering where he can get hold of cheap three-quarter-inch OD, half-inch ID seamless tubing, whatever that is.

Best of all, our lifestyle has had a galvanic effect on our eldest children: they are both determined to become professionals with huge salaries — and move as speedily as possible to London.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Country Life, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

PETER BROWN



Grey partridges chase both potential partners and rivals

All's fair in love and war

FEATHER REPORT

GREY PARTRIDGES have been having an exciting time during the past week or two. This is when many of them choose their mates, and they do it very publicly, usually in a large field of grass or old stubble. They have been moving around in flocks since the autumn, and now two often come together, in a combined party of up to 50 birds.

It looks like a battlefield, with practically every bird chasing another one. Males chase each other, females chase each other, and parents will chase their now fully-grown offspring.

This kind of chasing is partly to frighten off rivals, and partly to give each bird a chance of showing off its vigour and prowess to potential mates.

Sometimes there can be a real scrap, with beak and feet used as weapons. Generally, however, the weaker bird dodges and gives way.

Sometimes two birds will run at each other with head and neck lowered, but both will come to a sudden stop a moment before they collide.

Males also chase females, but with different intent: now the males are courting. At times, it seems, the poor females do not know whether they are being proposed to or being attacked.

However, after a day or two of these tournaments, the party has more or less settled down into pairs, which as spring advances will go their own way.

It is a splendid spectacle, and you can often watch it over a hedge without the partridges paying any attention to you. Normally you see partridges whirring away from you over a field.

Seen clearly like this, they are revealed as handsome birds, with an orange head, red-barred flanks, and a horseshoe mark on their stomach.

Later, when they are ready to start breeding, the male will draw himself up before the female, showing off those fine flanks, while she will walk around him with head lowered, and then they will mate.

They nest in long grass and under hedges, or sometimes in a haystack, and the female can be expected to lay anything from ten to 20 olive-coloured eggs.

During the summer, the pairs will keep to themselves, but they will usually nest somewhere in the area that their flock has been roaming over in the winter.

Partridges are exceptionally sedentary birds, and generation after generation will stay on the same stretch of farmland. When autumn comes, they will gather into flocks again, with two or three families sometimes joining together.

IN THESE new flocks, the young birds may roost or "jug" together, while the older birds scatter loosely around them for the night.

The young ones form a circle, their heads all facing outwards, so that they can watch out for foxes and other enemies. In the morning, you can trace the circles that they have formed in the grass.

Partridge flocks also roost on ploughland, where the furrows give them protection from the winter wind. On a really cold night they will huddle up together, their feathers touching, to keep warm.

They may have some more nights like that still to come this year — but at least they have begun the process of pairing off, and their summer life is under way.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch out for rooks back at their treetop colonies. Twitchers — spotless starling, Isles of Scilly; drake garganey, Welney, Norfolk; spoonbills, Dee Estuary, Cheshire. Details from Birdline (891) 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

The four-legged easy rider

Clare Hopper finds a pony that's suitable for both adult and child

IAN BRADSHAW



The strength and endurance of Dales ponies enables them to carry adults as well as teenagers on long treks

There are more than 200,000 pony-owning children in Britain, but the path to buying one is littered with pitfalls, as many a rueful parent can testify. How much can you afford for an animal only big enough for the children to ride? Hardest of all, what do you do with it when it has become part of the family but is too small to carry your growing teenagers? Try telling your kids the pony they learnt to ride on has to go.

The answer could lie in one of the larger of our own native British breeds, the Dales pony. Bred on the slopes of the eastern Pennines as pack animals, they live out in all weathers, breaking ice on puddles to drink and being resourceful in seeking shelter.

They are, say their increasing number of fans, as near trouble-free and cheap to keep as you can get with an animal.

More like small horses than ponies, measuring up to 14.2 hands with strong legs and feet, the Dales pony was bred as a pack animal to carry lead from the moors to the sea, returning with coal, a journey of 100 miles a week. They served as pack and mountain artillery animals in both world wars and were so successful that the mares were often cross-bred, relegating the pure breed to an endangered species.

To this day, the breed remains protected by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust but is now categorised as vulnerable rather than endangered. Happily, there are now about 1,500 on the register, including 90 stallions, with 150 foals registered each year.

The Dales pony is still a tough customer: the breed society demands that a Dales pony should be able to travel a mile in three minutes, be capable of being put to the plough and give a good ride to hounds. Its versatility and ability to carry heavy weights make it an ideal family pony — they live well into their twenties and sometimes longer.

Dales ponies are not suitable for small children, but once basic riding ability has been established, they are kind and willing enough to be ridden by older brothers and sisters, as well as parents.

Anne Wall, who uses nine Dales ponies at her Raygill Riding Centre near Barnard Castle in Co Durham, is a confirmed fan of the breed. "They keep going and don't seem to get tired. We don't rug them and they live out," she says. "They're lovely to handle and easy and cheap to keep because they're so hardy, but most of all it's the temperament that shines."

Mr Truffle is a case in point. He has found a home for life with Ian Bradshaw, a fifty-something, 12-stone photographer. "He was only five, which was quite young for my first horse, but I couldn't resist him," Mr Bradshaw says. "When we met, I gave him a mint and he nodded approvingly.

"I never looked back. He does trot, super-trot and turbo-trot, and when we get to canter, the earth shakes. Soon after I got him, we ended up in a ditch up to his chest. He simply climbed out and carried on. Amazingly, I was still on top."

A gelding (castrated male) costs from £1,500 to about £2,000; the mares cost a little more because of their breeding value. If you are looking for a registered animal, be sure to get the relevant papers at the time of purchase.

Don't be shy in asking for advice. "We get a lot of inquiries about what is the best breed for a family pony," says Laura Simms of the National Pony Society. "Having one you can keep for a long time is an important point. In addition to the Dales, we also recommend the other larger native breeds including the Connemara, New Forest, Highland and Fell."

But before buying any pony, work out where you will keep it and how much it will cost (rent for grazing is about £10 per week). Native ponies live out happily all year, but you must provide water as well as shelter in the form of thick hedges or a purpose-built shelter.

Buy temperament over looks and do not be tempted to economise by buying a young, untrained animal. Take a knowledgeable person with you when viewing, and see the animal ridden before trying it yourself. Some prices are negotiable, including saddle and bridle, so make sure you know what is included before you pay.

Always get the animal vetted (about £150). This will give you an independent assessment of health and suitability for purpose and will be required by your insurance company. Insure at least for third-party liabilities and vet bills.

Your native pony won't break the bank to feed. In the winter they manage on ad-lib hay (about half a bale a day at £2 a bale), plus low-energy pony nuts or pre-prepared mix when ridden (about £6 a bag). In the summer, care needs to be taken that they don't get too fat, which can lead to a lot of health problems, so always restrict their grazing.

If this sounds a bit daunting, don't be put off. Ponies are worth it for the years of pleasure they can bring. Family membership of the Pony Club is £55, individuals £23. This includes a third-party insurance deal, access to competitively priced instruction, summer camps, road safety tests and even polo.

● *Mrs J. Ashby, secretary, Dales Pony Society, Greystones, Glebe Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TY (01629 640439).*
● *The Pony Club, British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LR (01203 696697).*
● *National Pony Society, Willingdon House, 102 High Street, Alton, Hants GU34 1EN (01420 88333).*

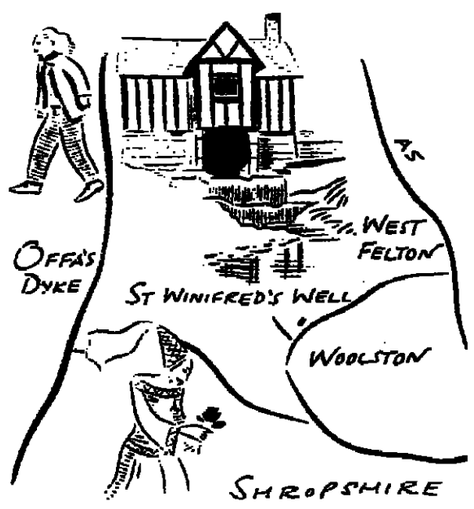
ON THE SPOT: SHROPSHIRE

JANE SPENCER

Rural recommendations

The place: the footpath beside St Winifred's Well, Woolston.
The view: on the right is the tiny timbered building standing over the well. The setting is peaceful and pretty, surrounded by trees. To your left along a narrow pathway is the property's bathroom, accessible only by crossing the footpath.
Aficionados: ramblers and guests staying at the property.
Appeal: to combine a walk in the picturesque countryside with a glimpse of this secret retreat.
Historical interest: the well is named after a 7th-century Welsh princess. A legend tells how she was decapitated by a jilted lover and later brought back to life by her uncle, St Beuno. In the 12th century her body was moved to Shrewsbury Abbey and later visited by pilgrims who discovered its magical healing properties — many of them were miraculously cured of eye complaints. The building was rescued from a dilapidated state and restored six years ago by the Landmark Trust. It now accommodates two people — very snugly.
OS ref: 323/244 on sheet 126.
How to get there: from A5 take road towards Woolston and then walk along footpath for five minutes.
Also nearby: Offa's Dyke and plenty of footpaths for keen walkers.

DEBORAH KING



AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

FREE antioxidants from Boots worth £5.49



To coincide with the launch of our six-part series *Healing*, thirty-two pages covering the A-Z of complementary medicine, Part II is free with today's *Times*, every reader is offered the opportunity to take a two-month course of Boots antioxidants — absolutely FREE.

Antioxidants are substances naturally found in foods such as fruit and vegetables that help us to stay healthy. Nutritionists recommend we eat at least five portions (excluding potatoes) every day but most of us rarely achieve that amount on a daily basis. That is why taking a vitamin supplement is such a good idea. It is a convenient way to ensure you receive your daily allowance of vitamins and minerals.

THE TIMES Boots FREE ANTIOXIDANTS TOKEN 2

HOW TO APPLY

All you need to take advantage of this offer is two differently numbered tokens from the Weekend section of *The Times*. Attach them to the application, right, and post to: *The Times*/Boots Antioxidant Offer, PO Box 193, Nottingham, NG3 2HA. Token two is above, token one was printed last Saturday.

The offer is valid until February 28, 1998 and is subject to availability.

THE TIMES/BOOTS ANTIOXIDANTS APPLICATION FORM

This voucher, with two differently numbered tokens attached, entitles the bearer to a FREE two-month course of Boots antioxidants. Offer valid until February 28, 1998.

Title _____ Initials _____
Surname _____
Address _____
_____
_____ Postcode _____

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

1. On which days do you usually buy *The Times*?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐
Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐
Don't usually buy *The Times* ☐
2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
_____
3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
_____
4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?
_____

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

See up to 35 miles with these high-powered binoculars



Why are we giving these binoculars away?
We have just secured 5,000 of these 600% high power lens binoculars for an incredibly low price. That is why we are able to give them away at the price of only £9.95. **But you must hurry, this offer is only available to the first 5,000 replies.**

Quality Binoculars
Do not misjudge the quality of these high power binoculars simply by the incredibly low price. Read the quality features and specifications listed below and you will see that these are a powerful, well designed pair of binoculars. Why pay £79.99 and more for other binoculars when you can try these for just £9.95

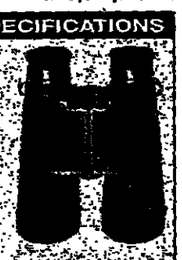
600% Power Lens
You won't believe your eyes when you take your first look through these binoculars, it's mind boggling! From a good vantage point, you can quite easily view lakes, mountains and nature's wonders. Distant people, birds and animals appear so close you feel you can almost touch them. You can even take them to your favourite sporting occasion. Bring the action from a football match, rugby, tennis or golf game close up – as if it was in your own garden.

BEFORE PAYING £79.99 FOR OTHER BINOCULARS
TRY THESE FOR ONLY **£9.95** + p&p

Our Guarantee
Why not try these incredible binoculars for **THREE WHOLE MONTHS** and test everything we have said in this advert. If, for any reason, you are not 100% satisfied, you can return them for a full, no quibble refund.

FREE BONUS GIFT
Send your order now, within seven days of this announcement being placed, and you will also receive absolutely **FREE** a leather styled handy carrying case complete with wrist strap and a detachable neck strap that keeps your binoculars safe.

QUALITY FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS



- 600% (6x) power magnification system
- Rugged shock resistant body
- Objective: 35mm minimum range; 24ft maximum range potential approx. 35 miles
- Lightweight, modern and compact design
- Water resistant
- High impact, non-shatter lens
- Instant eye width regulator
- Optics: coat-prismatic (coated)
- Focusing centre focus type
- Zippered leather style pouch
- Soft rubber eyecups for comfortable viewing
- Leather styled wrist strap
- Handy, detachable neck strap

TRY THE BINOCULARS AT NO RISK

SEND NOW TO: Carnell Ltd, Dept.BM20 · Main Road, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP or telephone our 24 hour order line on 01206 825600

☐ Please send me _____ pair(s) of HIGH POWERED BINOCULARS for only £9.95 plus £3 postage and packaging each.
☐ I enclose my cheque for £_____ payable to Carnell Ltd.
☐ Please charge my (Visa/Master/Switch) card:

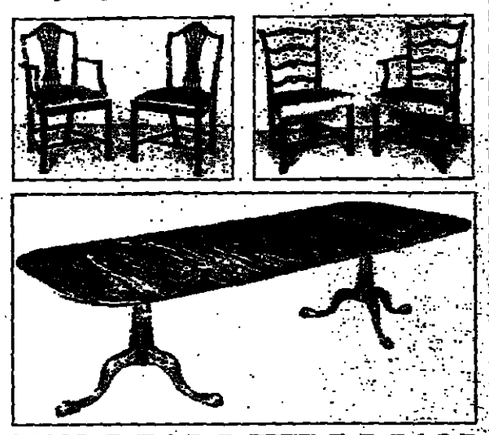
EXPIRY DATE ISSUE NO SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS
POST CODE

24 HOUR ORDER LINE 01206 825600

Exclusively sold by mail order. We aim to deliver within 7 days but please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Recreating the period. Perfectly.

At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere



WILLIAM TILLMAN

When only perfection is good enough.

30, St James's Street, London SW1A 1HB
Telephone: 0171 839 2500. Fax: 0171 930 8106
14-24, Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT
Telephone: 01732 883278. Fax: 01732 884439



"You can't buy better than a Stannah Stairlift."
RAYMOND BAXTER

Free survey. Fast installation. 24-hour call out. Full warranty.
Call or write **0800 715 422 ext. 3205**

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel. No.

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 3205, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Stannah Stairlifts
The world's most chosen stairlift

LADIES CHANGE YOUR MAN IN 1998



Does the man in your life wear dull and boring underwear? Then add spice to life with our Satin Briefs for Men.

MEN'S SATIN WONDERBRIEFS®
4 PAIRS FOR ONLY £10 FREE P&P
NORMALLY £8.50 EACH SAVE £16

Designed to enhance
The male physique to its maximum this pack of assorted colours in silky soft easy-care 'H'-cuts, for fabulous comfort. Nothing can beat the value of this SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
YOU REMEMBER YOU'LL BE FULLY SATISFIED OR WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY BACK
TO ORDER BY POST: Make cheque/PO's payable to KINIKI. State size required Small-Medium-Large- Ex. Large also Satin Wonderbriefs.

FREE NEW COLOUR CATALOGUE

PLUS £10 WORTH OF YOUR CHOICE FREE

TELEPHONE ORDERS 01782 611599 | KINIKI Dept 717 SPENCROFT ROAD NEWCASTLE STAFFS ST5 9QQ

Dunlopillo LATEX also



FFC exclusive FOAMS

cut to size for cushions & mattresses



NEW CUSHIONS For chairs, suites, bench seating etc. Uncovered or with our own fitted covers.
MATTRESSES Made to measure any size and to your individual comfort.
MATTRESS OVERLAYS A separate 2 in. deep layer for instant relief on a too hard bed.

EVERYTHING DELIVERED SAFELY TO YOUR DOOR. (Fax: 0113 274 8102)
PHONE 0113 274 8100
or post coupon for colour brochure, measuring guide and direct prices.
Please send stamp for colour brochure or phone.

Mr/Mrs/Miss (CAPITALS)
Address
Postcode
FOAM FOR COMFORT Dept T2, Unit Two, Wyther Lane Industrial Estate, Wyther Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds LS5 3BT.

MEN

DOES YOUR SIZE & POTENCY MATTER?

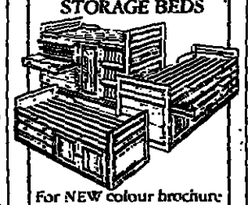
Our FREE report brochure details completely SAFE & NATURAL techniques you can use in your home to enlarge your penis and improve your potency. Developed by Harley Street & World Wide Experts.

NO SURGERY OR INJECTIONS REQUIRED

Our many testimonials prove excellent results within 4 WEEKS
ACT NOW to receive your FREE report (sent under plain and confidential cover).

Send 2 x 1st class stamps to Dash Publishing (Dept TM) Freepost, PO Box 22 Plymstock, Plymouth, PL8 2BR

MORIARTI'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS



For NEW colour brochure PHONE (01233) 850214

FREE SELECTIONS LINGERIE CATALOGUE



SEE FOR YOURSELF OUR BRAND NEW COLLECTION OF LINGERIE. SUPERB QUALITY AND STYLES ALL FULLY GUARANTEED
SEND FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE NOW
01635 862100
or write to: SELECTIONS DEPT TTT PO. BOX 3567, READING, BERKS RG19 8XS

St. VALENTINES...

You'll L♥VE these savings!
LOWEST EVER INTRODUCTORY PRICES

CONDOMS

SAME DAY DISCREET POST SERVICE

DUREX FETHERLITE	36	£11.45
DUREX GOSSAMER	36	£11.90
DUREX EXTRA SAFE	36	£15.00
WORLD'S BEST Climax	40	£16.00
WORLD'S BEST Assort.	40	£16.00
WORLD'S BEST Ribbed	40	£16.00

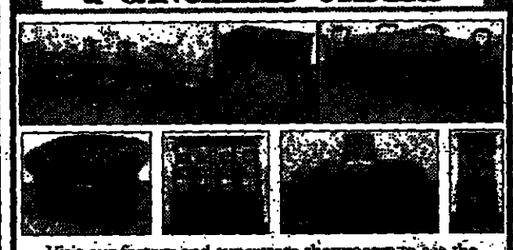
TOP QUALITY CONDOMS FROM BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SUPPLIER!

Cheques/P/O to ORCHARD & WIBBERT (TT), FREEPOST (KT4162) WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY KT12 1BR (No stamp needed)

FEBRUARY CLEARANCE SALE

UP TO 30% OFF

SURPLUS/OBSOLETE STOCK & CANCELLED ORDERS



Visit our factory and superstore showrooms to see the worlds largest display of fine English solid Mahogany, Walnut, Yew & Birdseye Maple antique replica furniture made by master craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century or phone for brochure.
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm
BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
32 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL (BETWEEN HAYWARDS HEATH & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RR
Tel: 01444 245577

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-1958. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.
REMEMBER WHEN 520 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4RE.
0181 688 6323

THE Loden COLLECTION

Traditional style and natural warmth. Classic Loden Coats and Shooting Jackets priced £95.
Tel 017683 53118
Ext 017683 53811 OR WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
Born for Loden
The White House · Appleby in Westmorland Cumbria CA16 6XP

Enjoy using and improving your FRENCH with *Le Nouvel Observateur*

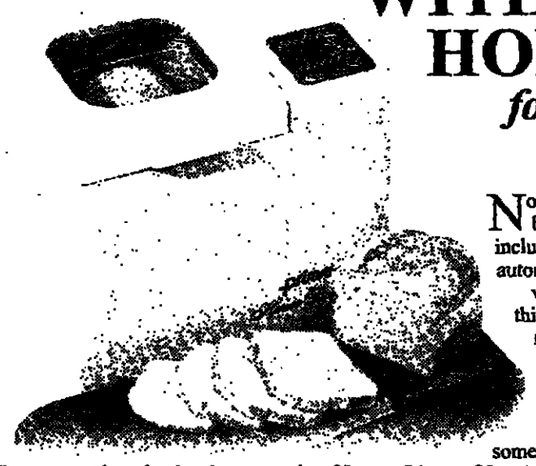
The French language magazine for UK readers

Stimulating articles in French: current affairs, tourism, activities, quiz humour, crossword, etc.
Used and recommended by many French teachers, this 24-monthly magazine contains many translation aids to assist comprehension and enjoyment.
Subscribe now and receive our FREE full-size STUDY GUIDE!
12-month subscription: £25.60 (post free).
Orders (post free) to: *Le Nouvel Observateur*, FREEPOST, MA 1311(M), Maidstone ME15 9BR

Traditional style, value and great ideas...

WAKE UP TO FRESH BREAD WITH YOUR OWN HOME BAKERY

for a very special £99.00 (RRP £149.99)



Nothing can beat the smell and taste of freshly baked bread. And at the very special price of only £99.00 including postage and packing, this simple to use, fully automatic, electronic deluxe breadmaker is exceptional value for money! With a three stage rising process, this fully automatic breadmaker will give you perfect results time after time. The breadmaker will make a loaf up to 1 1/2lbs. in around 2 hours 40 minutes. Normal white bread, brown, raisin, carrot, herb, onion, cheese, honey whole wheat, crusty French, multi grain whole wheat, light rye, these are just some of the breads your breadmaker will make for you. The compact breadmaker (measures just 33 cm x 24 cm x 30 cm) has six different operating modes: Normal, French, Rapid, Whole Wheat, Dough only (for pizza bases, rolls, bagels, croissants, Italian bread sticks) and Bake only. Other features include: crust browning control, 13 hour programmable timer (great to wake up to a fresh morning loaf!), 60 minute keep warm function, non-stick baking pan and kneading blade, auto fruit/nut signal (to tell you when to add these ingredients), large viewing window, comprehensive easy to follow instructions, mouth-watering recipes hints and suggestions, plus a trouble shooting guide, measuring cup and spoon. For this exceptional, value for money price, order yours today!

Order by Post

Fill in the coupon quoting your MasterCard/Visa account number or send together with cheque (address on back please) or crossed Postal Order NOT CASH to:

Coopers of Stortford (Ref. 9040), Admail100, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2FD.

Or Telephone

Call **01279 438150** for MasterCard/Visa Credit Card orders, **24 hour, 7 day service.** Please quote reference 9040 when ordering. For enquiries telephone 01279 635348 Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. We deliver to address in the UK (including Northern Ireland). If you are not satisfied with your purchase return the goods to us, unused and in the original packaging, within 28 days for a refund or exchange.

Coopers OF STORTFORD

HOME BAKERY ORDER FORM

Please send me	Quantity	Price	Total
Home Bakery		£ 99.00	

(Please indicate quantity and total)

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____ Initials _____
(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)
Surname _____
Address _____
_____ Post Code _____
Daytime Tel No. _____

I enclose a crossed cheque/Postal Order made payable to Coopers of Stortford for £_____
OR
please debit my Mastercard/Visa *(delete as appropriate)*
with the sum of £_____
Card No. _____
Signature _____
Expires _____ Your year of birth 19 ____

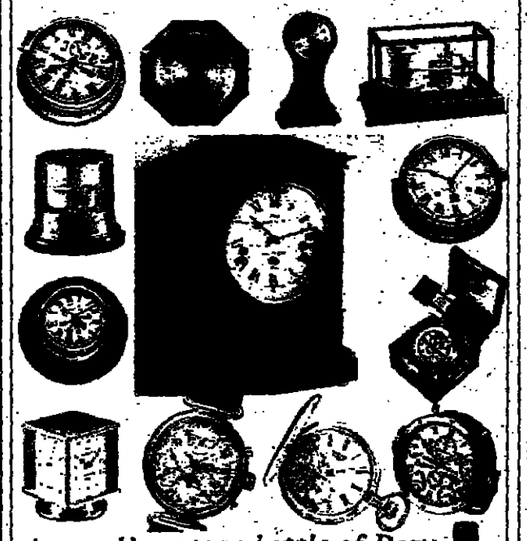
If you would prefer not to receive information, offers or services from other companies carefully selected by Coopers of Stortford, please tick box ☐ Ref. 9040

Coopers of Stortford is a trading name of The Enterprise Department Limited. Head Office: 22 Causeway, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2EJ. Reg. No. 2917801

Estd 1800ad Sewills

Chronometer, Watch and Nautical Instrument Maker to, The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Spoil yourself with the gift of time



A complimentary bottle of Dows Late Bottled Vintage Port
for qualifying orders

For your FREE brochures containing over 150 Watches, Chronometers, Clocks, Barometers and Barographs complete the coupon or phone on:

0151 708 0099

Or fax us on: 0151 708 6777. Quote ref: 111402

POST TO SEWILLS, CORNHILL HOUSE, 24 CORNHILL, LIVERPOOL L1 8DZ

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms.)
Address:
Postcode:
111402

Made to measure men's suits, jackets & trousers - any shape - any size



- Traditional British quality tailoring.
- 100's of styles in over 100 cloths - pleats, button fly, single & double breasted.
- Simple self-measurement system in the comfort of your own home or measurements taken from your own garments.
- Mail order service.
- Overseas enquiries welcome

Winebergs Est. 1900
FREE Brochure & Sample cloths call 0115 248 0131
Dept TT, Clement House, 15-19 Cowper Road, Leeds LS9 7HR

OUTDOOR CLOTHING WINTER SALE!!

UP TO 30% OFF PRICES IN OUR REGATTA OUTDOOR CLOTHING BROCHURE. THESE LOW PRICES ONLY POSSIBLE BY DIRECT MAIL ORDER. ALL ORDERS SENT POST FREE



EXAMPLE: Style mercury (as shown) Top Quality 300g anti-pill fleece jackets were £44 now only £33.00 post free, save £11.00 Other fleeces from £21.00.
Also large range of quality waterproof jackets, many interactive with our fleeces, plus bodywarmers, action trousers, waterproof overtrousers etc., for men, women and children, all at low prices!! Phone today for brochure.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE 24hrs
Phone: 07071 223560
Fax: 01579 351488
COUNTRY LIFESTYLE 2, BRISTOW ORCHARD, ST NEOTS, CORNWALL PL14 6BQ

Style Mercury: Top quality 300g anti-pill fleece jackets were £44, now only £33 post free.

Pure Silk Boxer Shorts



£12.95 POST FREE! Finest quality money can buy
PAIRS ONLY £9.95 EACH

- 100% pure twill silk.
- Machine washable.
- Strong, double seams for longer wear.
- Available in Burgundy, Cream, Olive, Green, Navy, Claret, Royal or Black.
- Waist sizes from 30" - 44".

Delivered in one working week.

FREE Brochure - THOUSANDS OF SILK COLLECTION
30 Day Guarantee
24 HOUR ORDER & BROCHURE HOTLINE
0171 274 2167
PO Box 3422, London SE5 8WW

The 'Sheila Maid'

CAST IRON AND NATURAL PINE CLOTHES AIRERS
Everything you need to install the "Energy-Saving" Airer.
48 hr Despatch
Home Deliveries Worldwide.
Trade Account Enquiries UK/Overseas (Dept TT)
NINE TRADITIONAL CURVED SHAPE
MULTI FOLD WIDTH CAST IRON BACK PIPE
4 PINE HAND ENERGY ROUNDED EDGE RAILS
NATURAL JUTE PULLEY CORD, SCREWS & PLUGS
BACK ENDS, PULLEYS, CLEAT IN 6 COLOURS.

The 'ORIGINAL' (Cooltrac Grey Metal Clips Coated)			
6ft 33lb	6ft 39lb	7ft 39lb	6ft 54lb
COLOURS (Cooltrac Red, Blue, Green, Black, White)			
6ft 33lb	6ft 39lb	7ft 43lb	6ft 54lb

POSTAGE and PACKING AND VAT included (details from B.A. Airdrapers)
THE DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept T, Unit 15, Marine Business Centre, Dock Rd, Lytham, PR8 5AJ, England.
Tel: 24 hrs 01253 736334 Fax: 01253 795191

HAIR LOSS !

New from Japan. Amazing unisex cosmetic fibre instantly disguises thinning hair.
FREE brochure 0800 9805 008
TOP TOP PRODUCTS
(Dept TT) FREEPOST (GE 5348) Thetford, Norfolk. IP24 2ZZ.
www.toptopproducts.co.uk/optout

هكذا من الاصل

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

In at the deep end

CORBIS



Anyone who has tried to swim and failed can try again at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, next weekend

CAMERA PRESS



Enjoy the words and music of Noël Coward, Feb 27-March 1

FEBRUARY 20-22

Creative drawing workshop; Woodcarving. Refinishing antique furniture; Imagination through painting. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price from £150, residential.

An introduction to holistic massage. With Sue Milner. AMAP Organisation, Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, London N7 (0181-874 0951). Price £80.

Learn to swim. For those who have tried to swim before and failed. Practical classroom sessions are followed by instruction in the pool. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Low-level rambles. Guided walks in Lakeland from the Blencathra Field Centre, Threlkeld, Keswick, Cumbria (017687 79601). Bring warm clothes and sturdy boots. Price £104 residential, £80 non-residential.

A Welsh border cycle tour. Various routes, including one following the River Teme to its source. With Wheely Wonderful Cycling and Walking Holidays of Ludlow (01568 770755). Price adults £104, children £83, including cycles, maps and B&B accommodation.

In quest of King Arthur; Know yourself and others through handwriting; Botanical illustration. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, West Sussex (01798 865306). Price from £97.

Poetry for pleasure; Belly dancing; Watercolour landscapes. At the Lancashire College, Chorley, Lancs (01257 260909). Price £96 per course, including accommodation.

Dances of the Renaissance courts; Making teddy bears. At Wensum College, King Street, Norwich, Norfolk (01603 666021). Price £84.

The war of the Spanish Succession. At the University of Manchester Centre for Continuing Education (0161-275 3275). Price £56.

Israel and the Holy Land; Workshop in making stained glass. At Urchfont Manor, Devizes, Wiltshire (01380 840495). Price from £99 to £104, residential.

Multi-activity weekends for singles and families. White-water rafting, abseiling, walking, and tuition in a wide range of crafts, available along the Welsh border and in the Black Mountains, from Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830110). Price from £100.

A late-winter bird weekend. Visit coastal and inland bird habitats with Geoff Abbott from the Field Studies Council, Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

FEB 27-MARCH 1

Hurdle making. Learn a traditional woodland skill at the South of England Rare Breeds Centre, Ashford, Kent (01233 861493). Price £100, concessions £75.

I wish I knew more about opera; Learn French; A celebration of Wales. At the Hill Residential Centre, near Abergavenny (01495 333777). Price £88 per course.

Historical dance; Tai ji Quan and Chinese health arts; Quilting — Mariner's compass and other designs. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Price from £69.

Joseph Conrad in his time; Fifth-century Athens. At Madingley Hall, University of Cambridge (01954 210636). Price from £120, full-board accommodation.

Anglo-Norman England. At the University of Oxford, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £24, accommodation available.

The words and music of Noël Coward; King Arthur in legend and romance. At the Wensum College, King Street, Norwich (01603 666021). Price £84, inclusive.

A weekend for solo singers; Botanical illustration; Letter carving in stone and slate; Working in pastels. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price from £150, inclusive of accommodation.

Find your voice. Building vocal power with group vocals and improvisation, at the Flint House Natural Health and Learning Centre, Lewes, East Sussex (01273 473388). Price £35 per day.

MARCH 6-8

Walking weekend of woodlands and shorelines in spring; Painting flowers in early spring. At the Field Studies Council, Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

Countryside walks and talks; Food and wine; An appreciation of Strauss. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, south Wales (01594 861435). Price from £85 to £100 per day, inclusive.

The Civil War in the west of England; Rediscovering the harpsichord. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £110, inclusive.

Backcare and kinesiology. Take care of your back and learn safe positions for sitting, lifting and sleeping. With Gill Avery and Pat Herington. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Working weekends and holidays with the National Trust. From charcoal making and dry-stone walling to gardening and woodland management. Help preserve Britain's natural heritage. Contact National Trust Working Holidays (0891 517751). Price from £45 per week.

Great American collections. Study some of the most famous European paintings now held in American collections. Also **Garden design for beginners.** Both at the Maryland Residential College, Woburn, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (01525 292901). Price from £103 residential to £74-£93, non-residential.

Bridge for beginners; Drawing for the terrified; Pottery. At various locations along the Welsh border, through Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price from £124 (bridge) to £144 (pottery).

Family history; Advanced French; Wetlands. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01b03 666021). Price from £85 per course, inclusive.

History of the visual arts — the Renaissance; Forty years fighting the arms race; Writing historical fiction; Jane Austen and the country house; Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*; Personality and persuasion. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Price £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries; Music of the 1920s and 1930s; Science and religion. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Burlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price from £36, including accommodation.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 680 6860

SHOPAROUND

FAX. 0171 481 9313

ARRIVED EARLY!!! Latest Range Of 'Touch-Close' Fastening "5 YEAR" TRAINERS

Whilst Supplies Last!

EVERY PAIR OF TRAINERS - JUST £5.95* +P&P

During Our Nationwide New Customer Campaign £5.95 price absolutely guaranteed to all readers of this newspaper until MARCH 23rd 1998

WE DARE YOU TO WEAR THEM OUT!

BEFORE PAYING £79.99 FOR OTHER TRAINERS

TRY OURS FOR ONLY £5.95* +P&P

We guarantee these shoes will please you as much 5 years from now (in the year 2003) as the day you bought them... or your money back!

- Guaranteed for 5 years or your money back
- Soles never need replacement for the life of Trainers
- World's most comfortable Trainers?

FOR MEN & WOMEN

Easy touch-close straps (NO LACES!!)

Guaranteed for 5 years or your money back!

Water resistant to help keep you dry

Safety tread for rain, snow & ice

Man made upper & sole

Designed for men and women, they look great for casual or sport's use. Probably the most comfortable trainers you will ever wear ... and we DARE YOU TO WEAR THEM OUT. OUR GUARANTEE: WEAR THEM FOR 5 FULL YEARS, AND IF YOU ARE NOT AS PLEASED WITH THEM AS THE DAY YOU BOUGHT THEM- WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY BACK (This does not affect your statutory rights)

ARCADIA (Dept 838-126), NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE X, NE85 2BS

Jambo Trading Limited T/A ARCADIA

Telephone Ordering Service ACCESS/VISA CARD HOLDERS PLEASE DIAL 0990 645 645 QUOTING ARCADIA DEPT 838-126 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER 24 HOURS A DAY ALSO AT WEEKENDS

Post to: ARCADIA (Dept 838-126) NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE X, NE85 2BS

Please indicate your order below. IF YOU BUY MORE, YOU SAVE MORE!!

	ITEM NO	SIZE	PRICE	HOW MANY	TOTAL
MENS (White/Blue trim) Sizes 6-11	R2332		£5.95		
LADIES (White/Pink trim) Sizes 4-8	R2333		£5.95		
			SUB TOTAL		
*Please add £2.95 post, packing & handling per pair					
			GRAND TOTAL		

SAVE MORE!

- ☐ 1 PAIR for £5.95
- ☐ 2 PAIRS for £10.90 SAVE £1.00
- ☐ 3 PAIRS for £14.85 SAVE £3.00

*Please add £2.95 for Post, Packing & handling for each pair

Make cheques payable to ARCADIA or charge my ACCESS/VISA CARD NO:

Expiry date..... Signature.....

Offer applies for U.K. Mainland and N.I. only ☐ Please tick here or let us know if you do not wish to be notified of any further special offers from unaffiliated companies Please allow up to 28 days for despatch Jambo Trading Limited T/A ARCADIA. Registration number 2875200

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (PRINT)

ADDRESS

POST CODE

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

A Personal Invitation from David Oreck, Company President...

TRY MY 8½-LB. ORECK IN YOUR OWN HOME FOR 15 DAYS FREE!

Over 1 million users have tried—and kept—my ORECK XL vacuum for years . Here's why:

At just 8½ lbs., the ORECK XL is the lightest full size upright available today. At the same time, it has *amazing* power.

Its double helix brushes revolve at an incredible 6,500 times a minute—much faster than others. They lift and comb the pile to professionally groom your carpets.

For bare floors, the exclusive Microsweep* working in combination with the revolving brush produces 70 million brush strokes a minute. It even picks up grains of sand from a kitchen floor or other hard surfaces. The vacuum automatically adjusts itself in going from tiles to wood to carpet. No need to bend and adjust.

The special top-fill action carries dirt up through the metal handle and deposits it at the top of the bag. Yesterday's dirt cannot escape. There's virtually no after dust to pollute the air in your home. And the top-fill metal tube works without hoses to crack, leak or break.

Good news: the CELOC® Hypo-Allergenic filtering system traps pet hairs, dust mites, pollen and many other common particles .

Nothing gets by an ORECK!

An optional Helping Hand® handle, ergonomically designed, means you don't have to squeeze your hand or bend your wrist.

Great for hand and wrist problems. Features like these have made the ORECK XL the choice of thousands of hotels, airports and other high traffic, heavy duty sites.

Why not try my ORECK XL in your own home — without cost or obligation—and see for yourself. If you don't love it, you don't keep it.

FREE WITH PURCHASE

SUPER POWERFUL COMPACT CANISTER

For everything above the floor. 4-lb. dynamo has the cleaning power of a heavy industrial machine. Hand holdable or shoulder-worn, it cleans under refrigerators...car seats...books...13-foot ceilings ...high corners...drapes...blinds... even typewriter, computer and piano keys. Complete with 8 accessories. It's yours FREE when you purchase an ORECK XL Upright.

So powerful it lifts a 16-lb. bowling ball!

ORECK CORPORATION Established 1963

NOTHING GETS BY AN ORECK

Phone FREE on 0800 684 684 ext. 1465 for FREE 15 Day No Risk trial

The supplier of this product is Salestec Ltd as an agent for Oreck Corporation, Cowley Bridge Road Exeter, Devon EX4 5HD

SEND NO MONEY NOW! POST COUPON TODAY. 1465

☐ YES please call me to arrange a free 15-day home trial of the ORECK XL.

☐ YES I want to learn how I can get my home ORECK clean. Please send me a free information pack without cost or obligation. I understand I will receive absolutely FREE an Oreck Super Compact vacuum with the purchase of the ORECK XL vacuum cleaner

☐ Also include details of ORECK's 12-month Payment Plan. No interest or Finance Charge.

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel: Day Eve:

Please return this coupon to Oreck Corporation, FREEPOST (EX3151) Exeter EX1 9AZ

We'll pay the postage - you do not need a stamp.

Send no money now. No obligation. No sales person will visit.

If you do not wish to receive further special offers from companies we recommend please tick the box ☐

هكذا من الاجل

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

Includes all pre-paid taxes	one way	return		one way	return		one way	return
MELBOURNE	£340	£499	NEW YORK	£184	£184	MEXICO CITY	£281	£331
PERTH	£356	£643	BOSTON	£188	£188	INDIA	£209	£350
CAIRNS	£379	£638	CHICAGO	£193	£215	JO'BURG	£219	£369
AUCKLAND	£376	£619	FLORIDA	£135	£235	CAPE TOWN	£266	£381
BANGKOK	£224	£372	LOS ANGELES	£255	£267	HARARE	£279	£504
HONG KONG	£269	£353	SAN FRANCISCO	£255	£271	NAIROBI	£185	£297
SINGAPORE	£256	£379	DENVER	£271	£271	DUBAI	£174	£248
BALI	£287	£438	TORONTO	£199	£231	CARIBBEAN	£204	£299
BEIJING	£213	£287	VANCOUVER	£297	£313	GENEVA	£99	£137
TOKYO	£350	£469	LAS VEGAS	£272	£272	AROUND THE WORLD		£824

*Per person based on 2 people travelling

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £29 • AFRICA £38 • PACIFIC £46 • ASIA £27

USA CAR HIRE FROM £20 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

AUSTRALIA FROM £499 RETURN
ON A QUALITY SCHEDULED AIRLINE
PLUS AUS$50 WORTH OF TRAVEL VOUCHERS TO SPEND IN AUSTRALIA

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WORLDWIDE TAILORMADE

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop. Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

42-50 Earls Court Road • LONDON W8 6FT
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3366
194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3939
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BD
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Travel: 0121-236 1234
48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Travel: 0117-929 9000
254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH
Worldwide Travel: 0141-353 2224
58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Travel: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

All our travel centres are open Mon-Fri from 9-7pm • Sat 9-6pm • Sun 10-6pm

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

... people think the world of us!

Australia New Zealand

- Top scheduled airlines.
- Best stopover choice – Far East, USA & more.
- Itineraries tailored to your exact wishes.
- Car & campervan hire, air, rail & coach passes.
- Accommodation from budget to luxury.

AUSTRALIA FARES FROM £533* RETURN
NEW ZEALAND FARES FROM £619** RETURN

* Depart 29 Mar-30 Jun 98
** Depart 16 Apr-30 Jun 98

01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT

OPEN 7 DAYS Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 9am to 5pm (London to 4pm)
12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Or
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
ATOL 2959 ABTA
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions may apply, ask for details.
Air fares include pre-paid taxes, locally paid taxes may apply.

Far East

FARES FROM £285 RETURN

BEST FLIGHT DEALS

With over 22 leading scheduled airlines in Economy, Business or First Class

ECONOMY FROM
Bangkok £399
Singapore £377
Bali £451
Kuala Lumpur £380
Bombay £357
Hong Kong £337

BEST HOLIDAYS

- The beauty of the Far East is the affordability of superior and deluxe hotels.
- At Travelbag we are renowned for securing the best deals with hotel chains such as Hyatt, Hilton, Marriott, Shangri-La.

HONG KONG from £299
THAILAND from £463

Other options include: Adventures, river trips, overland journeys, exotic beach locations.

MULTI-DESTINATIONS

Our speciality is multi-destination trips, blending cities, tours and beaches. Including flights, accommodation & day tours.
London > Hong Kong > Singapore > Bangkok > London .... flights from £603
London > Vietnam > Malaysia > London .... flights from £463
and many more!!! Call now for our Brochure

virgin atlantic • Thai • Cathay Pacific • KLM • Singapore Airlines • Malaysia • Qantas

01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558

TRAVELBAG

OPEN 7 DAYS 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Or
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions may apply, ask for details.
Air fares include pre-paid taxes, locally paid taxes may apply

---

USA Canada

MULTI STATE DEALS!

FARES FROM £182 RETURN

Our speciality is multi-state trips blending cities, tours, beaches and activities.

Getting there — multi-state examples:- FROM
London > New York > Los Angeles > London £339
London > New Orleans > Washington > London .. £359
London > Toronto > New York > London £387

Getting around
Motorhomes from .... £301 per van per week.
Special offer from Jan-Mar '98 2 weeks for the price of 1
Car hire from .... £5 per day
(Excludes insurance and tax)
Conditions apply, ask for details.

£610 pp 11 Nights Coach Tour

Coach Tours from £276
Save £££'s on a 13 night 'Canadian Contrast' tour: Toronto–Vancouver from £618.
Prices are per person, based on 3 people share, excluding flights & Departure taxes.

Accommodation
Hotels from........ £14 per person/night Twin share
Villas from .... £8 per person/night (6 people sharing with pool access)
All grades of Hotels/motels available

Choose how you travel and where you stay - Tailormake your very own holiday.
Call NOW for more information.

01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED UNITED AIRLINES AGENT

OPEN 7 DAYS 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Or
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions may apply, ask for details.
Air fares include pre-paid taxes, locally paid taxes may apply

---

Travel Insurance
Preferential Annual Price... from only £40
Preferential
01702 42 33 93
NO PENALTY FOR OVER 65's

Southern Africa

- New adventures & tours for all ages, fabulous safaris, game viewing.
- Rail/Coach tours, Self-drive
- Luxury 'Stays of Distinction'.

SOUTH AFRICA FARES FROM £369 RETURN

01420-80828 or 0171-287 5535

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AGENT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Or
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions may apply, ask for details.

AB AIRLINES
FIRST FOR VALUE
TAX-INCLUSIVE RETURN FLIGHTS
0345 46 47 48
LISBON fr £124
BERLIN fr £116
SHANNON fr £75

Franco says "£99 return to any of our destinations? That's right! You have until 5 March to book this amazing offer."

(Travel valid until 5 April.)

Daily scheduled flights from London Luton. Return prices now include UK £10 and foreign departure tax.

Dusseldorf from £99 return
Nice from £99 return
Munich from £99 return
Rome from £99 return
Barcelona from £99 return
Madrid from £99 return



Franco Mancassola Chairman, Debonair

debonair
We're opening up the skies.
Call now on 0541 500 300
or contact your travel agent.

Booking period: 7/2/98 to 5/3/98. Travel valid between 7/2/98 to 5/4/98. Valid on Debonair published weekend special fares only. Saturday night stay required. Taxes are correct at time of going to press. All prices are subject to availability. For our European Vacations brochure call 01293 596006.

---

benz
NEW YORK 189
BANGKOK 350
AMSTDAM £2?? HONG KONG £340
CARIBBEAN £229 JO'BURG £298
COLOMBO £309 LANGELES £229
DELHI £330 MADRID £110
DUBAI £280 MANILA £420
FRANKFURT £115 MOSCOW £195
GOA £299 SYDNEY £499
0171 462 0011

SIMPLY THE BEST
CALL NOW!
0161 743 0020
0171 976 1373

TRAVEL ZONE LTD
0171 287 8997

ROLL UP ROLL UP...
AMERICAS EUROPE
TRAVEL MARKET
0800 731 9185

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

(*excl taxes) — CURRENT BEST BUYS —

	O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN
SYDNEY	£319	£555	SINGAPORE	£240	£360	HARARE	£279	£420
CAIRNS	£342	£567	HONG KONG	£250	£529	JO'BURG	£220	£545
PERTH	£340	£555	JAKARTA	£245	£387	CAPE TOWN	£275	£407
AUCKLAND	£399	£650	BALI	£260	£415	MEXICO CITY	£260	£289
DELHI	£215	£315	SAIGON	£270	£390	RIO DE JANEIRO	£289	£355
BOMBAY	£212	£315	CAIRO	£159	£210	TORONTO	£187	£209
MADRAS	£266	£390	BEIJING	£270	£281	NEW YORK	£129	£146
KATHMANDU	£240	£415	DUBAI	£189	£279	BOSTON	£129	£146
COLOMBO	£245	£377	TOKYO	£250	£440	LOS ANGELES	£134	£194
BANGKOK	£220	£345	NAIROBI	£219	£279	GRAND CAYMAN		£565

SPECIAL OFFERS
*NAIROBI £329 rtn depart anytime up to 30 June
*DUBAI £279 rtn depart anytime up to 31 Mar
*BANGKOK £440 rtn depart anytime up to 30 June
*S.AFRICA £359 rtn depart anytime up to 31 Mar
MELBOURNE £470 rtn depart between 29 Mar 30 June
*Direct non-stop services

- AROUND THE WORLD -
UK - BANGKOK - SYDNEY - CAIRNS - PERTH - HONG KONG - LONDON £689
Departs between 1st March - 15th April Book by 15th February
Whether you are holidaying or visiting home, would like to go direct or with a stopover, at Platinum Travel we offer more flights via more destinations, at all the right prices to suit your requirements

LONGHAUL 0171 937 5122 TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPE 0171 937 2654
52 EARLS COURT ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON W8 6EJ
OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-6PM, SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

---

planning the trip of a lifetime?
head to
Independent Traveller's World '98
Manchester G-Mex Centre 21–22 February 1998
Entry only £3
The world's most imaginative travel Companies
• Free Travel Talks • Travel Guides • Adventure Equipment • Free Cybercafé
ITW hotline – 0171-341 6691 internet – www.itwnet.com

FLIGHTBOOKERS
travelling freestyle
ASTA D0806/V8800 ATOL 2562 IATA
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR SERVICE

Includes all pre-paid taxes

New York fr	£186		
Boston	£186		
Washington	£169		
S. Francisco	£220	Australia fr	£536
San Diego	£220	Auckland	£619
Florida	£220	Bangkok	£340
Chicago	£219	Singapore	£374
Dallas	£170	Hong Kong	£335
Houston	£170	Bali	£399
Las Vegas	£255	Jo'burg	£363
Toronto	£236	Nairobi	£285

Los Angeles fr £215
Travel Period 1 Apr-31 May 1998
1 Week fully inclusive Car Hire fr £159

AMERICAS & CANADA 0171 757 2000
AUSTRALIA & NZ 0171 757 2468
WORLDWIDE 0171 757 2444
FLORIDA 0171 757 2222
Gatwick Branch: 01293 568300 Glasgow branch: 0141 204 1919
OPEN 7 DAYS
Best Value:- Air fares - Car Hire - Hotels - Insurance

FOR MORE TRAVEL ADVERTS TURN TO PAGE 35

TRAVEL NOW! AUSTRALIA
FROM AN UNBEATABLE £499 RETURN

For these and other great deals to Australia & New Zealand call or visit our Knightsbridge shop. We'll give you the best advice on fares, flights, stopovers, low cost travel insurance and a great range of accommodation.

ONE WAY FARES FROM JUST £149

AUSTRAVEL'S GREAT ESCAPE, THE SHOP WHERE GREAT ADVENTURES BEGIN
0171 584 0202
AUSTRAVEL'S GREAT ESCAPE, THE BASEMENT, 152 BROMPTON ROAD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW3

AIRLINE NETWORK
The National Sales Centre for over 100 leading scheduled airlines, with 600,000 discount fares to 1,000 destinations

FIVE SPECIALIST DEPARTMENTS - CALL DIRECT
USA & WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS 017 72 72 72 72
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 01772 727 727
BUSINESS & FIRST CLASS 01772 727 747
ROUND THE WORLD 01772 727 222
HOTELS & TAILORMADE 01772 727 757
ALL PRE PAYABLE AIRPORT TAXES INCLUDED
OPEN 8am - 9pm 7 days a week SEE ITV Teletext P.275

WASHINGTON fr	£178	VANCOUVER	£308
PHILADELPHIA	£198	CALGARY	£308
DETROIT	£208	MEXICO CITY	£331
DALLAS	£218	HONG KONG	£338
CHARLOTTE	£224	INDIA	£360
ATLANTA	£224	BANGKOK	£368
TORONTO	£236	SOUTH AFRICA	£380
DUBAI	£260	SINGAPORE	£380
ARIZONA	£268	MANILA	£450
SEATTLE	£274	TOKYO	£480
DENVER	£274	AUSTRALIA	*£528
BEIJING	£290	NEW ZEALAND	£619

USA SPECIALS
NEW YORK fr £193
BOSTON £193
CHICAGO £230
FLORIDA £233
CALIFORNIA £233
LAS VEGAS £268
Low cost Car Rental available

Australia from £534
including 2 free stopovers in Singapore.
Accommodation available. Call for full details.

FLIGHTS DIRECT

Other airlines return prices including pre-paid airport taxes from:

Perth	£625	Beijing	£283	Miami	£225
Sydney	£526*	Bombay	£349	Los Angeles	£205
Auckland	£619	Johannesburg	£369	Las Vegas	£260
Hong Kong	£335	Dubai	£284	Toronto	£194
Bangkok	£344	New York	£181	Vancouver	£234
Singapore	£379	Washington	£173	Mexico	£326

*per person based on 2 people travelling together
Prices are subject to availability. THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES ON CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS. To ensure quality service calls are recorded. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd.

Thomas Cook
Lines open 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat-Sun
ABTA F1304, ATOL 0265
0870 75 00 136
WE GO FURTHER TO FIND THE RIGHT FLIGHT

★ USA and CANADA

Dallas	from £169	Toronto	from £174
New York	from £179	Montreal	from £229
Boston	from £193	Vancouver	from £274
Baltimore	from £193		
Washington	from £199		
Chicago	from £209		
Philadelphia	from £219		
Orlando	from £219		
San Francisco	from £219		
Los Angeles	from £219		
Miami	from £219		
Seattle	from £219		

★★ SPECIAL OFFER ★★
NEW YORK £179
Depart London Heathrow before 31 March 98
HOTELS from £39 per person per night

eclipse
0990 329 326
Lines Open: Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.
First Choice Holidays & Flights Ltd. ABTA V1545 ATOL 230 IATA

Annual Travel Insurance from just £35
Family cover from £70
Single-trip from: £6 Europe, £12 USA
Buy Direct from the Specialists.
01603 767699
OPEN 7 DAYS

TRAVEL Insurance
We will not be beaten on price!
USA - 17days £23.00
12months Australia £150
World-wide family Multi-trip £79.00
EUROPE 17days £11.00
FREE AIRPORT PARKING WITH EVERY POLICY
0990 133218 7 days

FARESAVERS

MALAGA	£69	GREECE	fr £89
ALICANTE	£69	TURKEY	£119
FARO	£69	ISRAEL	£119
TENERIFE	£79	MALTA	£89
LAS PALMAS	£79	CYPRUS	£129
LANZAROTE	£79	ITALY	£89
BALEARICS	£69	CARIBBEAN	£219

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
01476 592095

SAVE on TRAVEL INSURANCE
ANNUAL from £69
LONG STAY from £10.50
USA CAR HIRE TOP-UP Extends liability to $1M
SINGLE TRIP from £10
WORLDWIDE
01892 833 338

Direct Travel Insurance
for TOP QUALITY COVER AND VALUE
WORLDWIDE ANNUAL MULTI-TRIP UNLIMITED SKI - UNLIMITED TRIPS
COMPREHENSIVE COVER £95 per FAMILY
UK'S BEST SINGLE TRIP RATES from
EUR. £6.00
USA £14.25
SKI £10.50
A Commercial Union Co.
01903 812345
For instant cover or quotation 9am - 8pm Seven days a week

FLIGHTSEATS
Now booking Summer 98
Retail agents for ATOL holders. ABTA C5097
ASTA members for 18 years
Selected flights prices from:

Alicante	£59	Turkey	£129
Malaga	£59	Malta	£89
Faro	£59	Greece & Isles	£99
Palma	£59		
Mahon/Ibiza	£59	Geneva	£79
Tenerife	£79	Israel	£129
Lanzarote	£79	Orlando	£169
Funchal	£89	Canada	£229

0990 239904

FLIGHT CENTRE
WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS
0181 669 8607

CAR HIRE "WINTER SALE"
0870 9022333

JETLINE
Discounted fares to all destinations
FLORIDA SPECIALISTS
0171 360 1111

NEXUS TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM	fr £88	ITALY	fr £99
CANARIES	£99	MADRID	£121
CYPRUS	£159	POLAND	£139
DUBAI	£299	PORTUGAL	£79
FRANCE	£89	PRAGUE	£109
GERMANY	£109	STH AFRICA	£359
GOA	£250	SPAIN	£99
GREECE	£109	USA	£189

0117 927 7727

TRAVEL INSURANCE
£10 OFF every policy sold
01243 817781
CLUB DIRECT

Travel Insurance
SKI SELECTION
01582 456626

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

sunWorld BEACH VILLAS
Choose from over 300 private villas in Majorca • Menorca • Costa Blanca • France • Malta • The Algarve • Cyprus • Turkey • Caribbean • Florida
for a brochure or to book call
0990 58 58 58

AIRLINK Worldwide
0171-713-7770

Monument TRAVEL
Prices from Inc Tax
Spain £59 Malta £89
Balearics £69 Cyprus £109
Canaries £79 Turkey £159
Portugal £69 Canada £171
Italy £89 USA £179
Greece £119 Australia £549
01476 404747

ABROAD HOLIDAYS
0181 787 3030

WORLDWIDE DESTINATIONS
GLOBAL TRAVEL
0161 929 5559

Holiday Parks Holland Germany
Quality holiday parks in Holland and the Black Forest and Motel regions of Germany
Phone 01502 502 603
HOSEASONS

هكذا من الاصل



The writing is on the wall

New York City · 26,27

THE TIMES
TRAVEL

Walk for your supper

Summer sun · 28-30



PANOS PICTURES



A simple life based on centuries-old traditions is the rule in Bhutan, vigorously maintained by its culture-conscious king. There is no television, few telephones and tourism is discouraged. Some say it is a repressive regime, others that it is Shangri-La

Thunder in Shangri-La

Christopher Thomas, following the footsteps of the Prince of Wales, unveils the mysteries of Bhutan

The hermit kingdom of Bhutan, which the Prince of Wales visited this week, is squashed between India and Tibet, a remote, eccentric haven that discourages tourism, dislikes rapid change and has, by decree, stalled time. This is the last frontier of the Himalayas, a land of unscathed virgin forests, clean and abundant rivers, pure air and countryside that is underpopulated.

There are fewer than one million people in this country, the size of Switzerland: this is the way it used to be before the Himalayan foothills succumbed to plough and axe, before people and their garbage damaged one of the greatest environmental spectacles. Bhutan is a cultural and ecological masterpiece.

Outside the country there are two schools of thought about Bhutan. First: it is a repressive regime, ordering its people to live by the outmoded rules of an ancient culture and denying them modern facilities in the name of cultural purity. Second: it is a Shangri-La fighting for survival against tourism, television and environmental wreckage threatened by millions of land-hungry migratory Nepalese. The second opinion will reverberate with those who have seen the destruction of Nepal, its culture and environment ravaged by too much tourism. It is still one of the poorest places on earth. Bhutan is not so destitute: there are no beggars to speak of, there is no chronic hunger, no poverty of the Nepalese kind, no sense of the national shame that hangs over the Hindu kingdom.

Bhutan rises from a narrow strip in the south at 1,000 feet to Himalayan peaks in the north of 23,000ft. Access to the central valleys from the south was hampered by a mountain wall, jungles and gorges — dangerous terrain that made travel all but impossible for those not born into it.

A road now cuts through. The telephone has yet to make its mark on the lives of people engaged almost exclusively in agriculture or livestock, most of them living beyond most symbols of civilisation, a self-sufficient, timeless people occupying houses with window frames painted in the same gaudy colours used for religious masks, surrounded by fences of bamboo, the yaks grazing, the oak forests undisturbed. Monks amble by, red-robed and venerated, their authority no less than it was centuries ago.

I recall Bhutan's only newspaper, *Kuensel*, raging in a front-page article a few years ago about the conduct of an American tourist who, fresh from a package tour to Nepal, had marched into the middle of an outdoor religious festival with his video-camera, as if this were an event staged for him. People were dancing in brightly painted masks; priests chanted; music rang through the hills. For a moment it all stopped in horror at this violation by a tourist in shorts. The man was dragged off, protesting in confusion.

Bhutan does not put itself on show for visitors: it has not lost the sense of sacredness in its festivals, which are as natural as the unseen religious events that go on timelessly in every Indian village, unsullied by the invasive and mocking curiosity of outsiders. Bhutan's religious celebrations likewise retain their purity of purpose, unstained and unmotivated by tourist dollars. That is the way Bhutan intends to keep it.

"We don't need tourists," a Government minister told me. "We don't need what comes with their money."

The Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon — this is the meaning of the country's official name, Druk-Yul — decided a decade ago to evict ethnic Nepalese from the fertile south, where many had settled for generations. Those unable to prove residence before a cut-off date of 1956 were forced out — about 100,000 people, many of whom had lived in Bhutan long before 1956 but could not prove it. Bhutan argues that it did not act earlier because communications between Thimphu, the tiny capital, and the south were so poor that nobody in authority knew the Nepalese were pouring in.

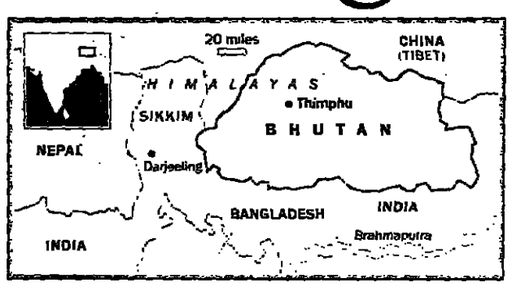
King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, aged 43, the Druk Gyalpo, or Precious Ruler of the Dragon People, wears his culture ostentatiously. He dresses in a silk kimono *(kho)* and recoils at accusations of ethnic cleansing. He says his mission is to save his culture, not to preserve his position.

"The flaw in monarchy," he says, "is that you reach that very high and important position not due to merit but to birth. Too much depends on one individual. I always stress in all my speeches and talks to schoolchildren that the future of Bhutan does not lie in the hands of the king but in the hands of the people."

The king and his acquiescent parliament — it is elected, but political parties are banned — have introduced codes of conduct that govern everyday life, from the clothes that should be worn to the proper manner of greeting. King Wangchuck banned satellite television dishes when better-off people imported them from India.



The Prince in Bhutan



He travels extensively on horseback to reach remote villages, where his people stand before him with eyes cast down as a mark of respect. On these trips he examines the yak herds that are crucial to the tiny economy; he explores a culture that looks satisfyingly secure, although the threats are real. He wades through rivers abundant with fish and views primeval forests that have never heard a chainsaw nor, he says, ever will.

He is fourth in a dynasty installed in 1907 but heir to a 1,300-year-old Bhutanese tradition. He encourages mass education and insists that he wants his country to move slowly, very slowly, from near-medieval monarchy to a more democratic system of government without instability or damage to its culture, which derives from Tibetan Tantric Buddhist tradition.

He holds religion in esteem: since becoming king in 1972 while still a teenager, he has improved the living standards of monks, thousands of whom now have life insurance and pension plans. "Bhutan has a democratic monarchy," he told me a few years ago. "Most people think a country with a monarchy is backward and feudal. But Bhutan is more democratic than most democratic countries and more democratic than any democratic Third World country."

Bhutan's centuries-old *dzongs* (monastic fortresses) are pivotal to the culture as centres of intellectual and artistic life and as recipients, over the centuries, of much of the nation's wealth. The population was held in check by disease and the practice of sending one son to the monastery.

The battle for survival has brought accusations of atrocities against Nepalese settlers, which are probably exaggerated. The king points to the former Buddhist kingdoms of Sikkim, Tibet and Ladakh, which succumbed to outsiders, to justify the expulsions.

This status quo has been disturbed in the south by terrorist acts by ethnic Nepalese, who have destroyed bridges, pylons and schools in anger at their expulsion. Their bitterness is understandable; so is Bhutan's fear of an ethnic deluge.

Bhutan, never colonised, revels in its sense of independence and uniqueness. It makes tourism prohibitively expensive and strictly controls trekking to save the environment. No new hotels are being built: Thimphu, too small for traffic lights, sees very few foreign faces — no more than the annual limit of about 5,000 a year, and that figure is not always reached.

King Wangchuk even limits access by foreign aid organisations, because of their impact on Bhutan's cultural traditions. Polygamy and polyandry, for example, are widespread: several brothers might marry one wife to save dividing a farm. The king married four women, sisters, each of whom has two children, but he chooses to live alone in a log house in the hills. Despite having four wives, he declares with a wry smile, he has a "happy home life".

His subjects generally adore him, although there are dissidents who favour a more open society with modern amenities. Nepal, of course, hates him. But there is no denying this place of beauty that survives because of the determination of one man to save his country, its culture and environment.

FACT FILE ON THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

THE NUMBER of tourists to Bhutan is limited by the facilities, and travellers may enter only under the auspices of an accredited tour operator.

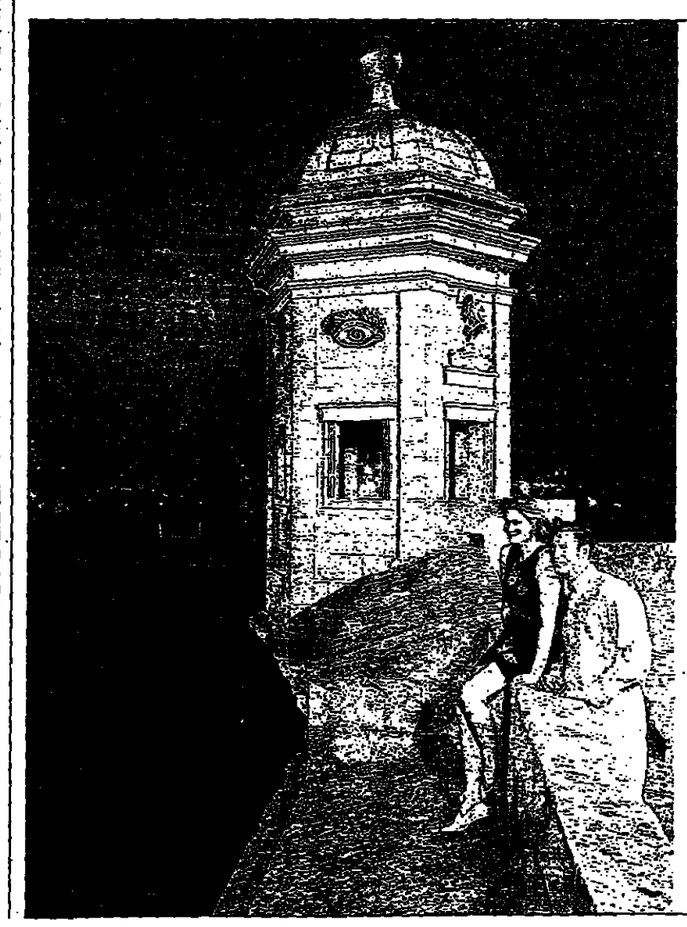
■ *Tour operators*: Himalayan Kingdoms (0117 9237163) offers three Bhutan trips this year: an 18-day trek in western Bhutan in April coincides with the *Paro tsechu* (a Buddhist religious festival) and costs £2,895; an 18-day cultural tour in September costs £3,095; and a 15-day Christmas tour for £2,695. KE Adventure Travel (01768? 73966) operates a variety of trekking, mountain-biking, climbing and less strenuous tours; a three-week trek costs from £2,895. Exodus (0181-675 5550) offers a 15-day holiday (with eight or nine days trekking) in October for £2,750. The prices quoted are per person and include flights, transfers, B&B accommodation, camping and meals on treks; based on two people sharing.

■ When to go: either side of the monsoon season (mid-June to end-September). Temperatures depend on altitude; in the mid-mountain belt (4,000m-7,000m), where most tour groups go, expect 18C-27C from March to June. In winter (November to March) daytime temperatures average 17C (below zero on cold nights).

■ Visas (valid for 28 days): obligatory and obtained through tour companies, £12 ($20).

■ Health: precautions against cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis A, tetanus, malaria and meningitis are recommended. Anti-rabies jabs optional.

■ Information: Bhutan has no tourism offices abroad. Guides include *Introduction to Bhutan*, by Françoise Pommaret (Odyssey, Hong Kong, £9.95), and *The Thunder Dragon Kingdom*, by Steve Berry (Crowood Press, £12.95, out of print but author has a few copies: contact him at Himalayan Kingdoms (0117 9237163).



6000 years of history,
25 centuries of civilization,
12 months of sunshine,
3 hours away.



Valletta. An ancient city that rises majestically to welcome you from the azure waters of the Mediterranean. There's modern luxuries too: exquisite five star hotels, fashionable shops and restaurants with friendly English speaking people, all ready to welcome you to their historic city. Just 3 hours away and very close to perfection. For more information about the Maltese Islands, call 0171 292 4900.

E-mail: office.uk@tourism.org.mt
Website: HTTP://www.tourism.org.mt

THE MALTESE ISLANDS

The very heart of the Mediterranean

هكذا من الاصل

American graffiti

Jeremy Hart, aka WORM, grabs a can of aerosol paint to make his mark in New York City, mecca for ambitious graffiti artists from all over the world



JOHN KERNICK

Zephyr, Blade, Iz the Wiz, Revolt and now WORM. High up on the weatherbeaten wall of a lift shaft atop a run-down Chinese laundry in Queens is a *burner*, in graffiti terminology a work of art. At least that's my view. It is my first *piece* and it's *buttaz, fat, cool*, even *hot and tempting*.

Four feet tall, my mark is 200ft above the steaming, screaming streets of New York City, clearly visible from the once graffiti-scarred subway carriages of the Flushing local line into Grand Central Station.

Before you call the New York Police Department's anti-graffiti unit, my piece is legal. However, *hitting up a wall* elsewhere in the Big Apple and my taste for street art could land me *upstate*, pavement parlance for prison.

It is safe to paint at the Phun Phactory though. The community-run graffiti haven uses the walls from dozens of inner-city buildings such as the Chinese laundry to give oppressed artists an urban canvas on which to paint without fear of arrest.

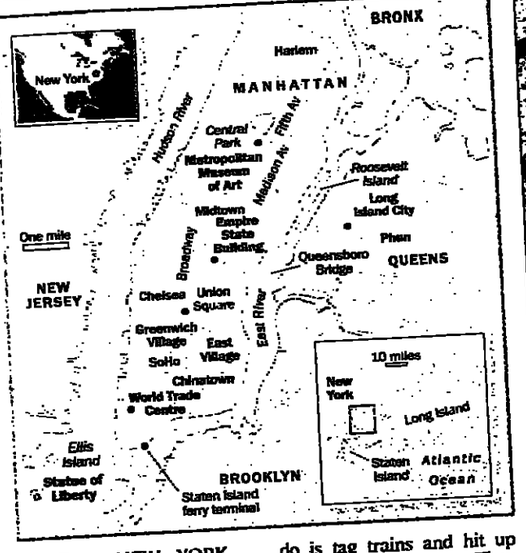
"There's not the buzz of hitting up a subway train or anywhere illegal, but having places like this is going to be the only way graffiti is going to survive in New York," says Stevie, whose *tag*, or street signature, is Hasp.

All over the Chinese laundry are murals with Euro tags, legacies of New York's latest package tourist, the graffiti artist.

POLAND... FINLAND... NEW YORK... declares one unimaginatively in *throwie* or bubble letters. Another, with all the irony of Swiss humour says NYC AND ZH CREW SWITZERLAND. WORM is by far the coolest addition to the EC graffiti mountain.



Hasp coaches as Jeremy Hart tries his hand at street art



"Europeans are just happy to come to New York," says Hasp. "For a graffiti artist this is heaven."

Deflecting Dibble (as in Officer Dibble from the cartoon *Top Cat*) from the trail of New York taggers, the Europeans have quickly earned themselves respect on the rough streets of the Big Apple.

"All the Europeans want to do is tag trains and hit up walls in Manhattan. Then they take a photo and take it back home. They think it beats going to see the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building," reckons Pat Di Lillo, father of the Phun Phactory.

Peter, a German graffiti artist, has just arrived in New York. Under a false lining in his suitcase is a rainbow palette of paint cans. For Hasp, this is buried treasure.

"The German paints are better than ours, the colours are much richer and smoother and there is a bigger choice," says Hasp, who hopes to get his paint-stained hands on Peter's wares in return for a few tips in becoming street-wise in New York.

For an initiation, he will take the German into fabled ghettos such as South Jamaica in Queens or Alphabet City in the East Village, known as the ABCs. It is a dangerous place, run by graffiti gangs such as the Bomb Squad, the Rebels and KAW.

"A lot of time writers get slapped up by a gun," says Doña, one of the few female writers in the city. "You take someone else's space, or deface their art, you're dead. You have to be prepared to die for your art."

Where guns meet graffiti is where the European visitors get the biggest kick. In London, Lyon or Leipzig there is no threat of death for spray painting an urban wall.

In spite of the unrelenting clampdown on graffiti by the NYPD, street art is still a part of urban Big Apple architecture. In suburban Queens, off North Boulevard at 54th St and at Broadway, railway bridges owned by Amtrak have been brightened up by graffiti artists accredited to the Phun Phactory.

Manhattan is no longer a graffiti jungle, but a few areas are still plastered with some of New York's best work, including a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, in Houston Street on the Lower East Side.

Graffiti-proof paint on trains has made life harder, but any self-respecting Euro tourist still feels they must get their tag on a train.

"There is nothing more typical of New York than a subway train covered in graffiti," says Frog, a Frenchman who wears the international graffiti artist uniform of baggy jeans, Nike pumps, a shiny quilted jacket and a reversed baseball cap. "It is worth getting arrested to paint a subway train."

Preferring neither to be arrested nor set upon by a rival tagger, I limited my graffiti to the Phun Phactory's walls. Thoughts of painting a psychedelic English country landscape flitted through my mind, even a cartoon cityscape of London: in this corner of a foreign concrete jungle I wanted to leave something Limey.

"Whatever you do, keep it simple," warns Hasp, omitting to call me stupid, but intimating just that. "Just do a throwie or your tag. It's easy."

Hasp has thrown down the graffiti artist's gauntlet so I grab the first can of engine paint, a silver one, and aim it at the grey wall. My mind is as blank as the concrete... then my nickname comes flashing before me: WORM.

I hit the button, releasing a hail of silver tracer fire from the nozzle that spatters the wall with an uneven coat of intoxicating paint.

"Closer, closer," shouts Hasp. I edge forward to less than an arm's-length from the lift shaft. The difference an inch or two makes. The wishy-washy spattering is now a razor-sharp silver jet.

"Do the outline in silver, then we'll fill it in," coaxes Hasp from just over my right shoulder. The W is enormous. I suddenly realise I have only as much space again for the other three letters.

"Oookaay," observes my teen tutor, less than enthusiastically. "Now fill it in."

The cavernous silver letters begin to fill with dripping red paint. Sad, I know, but I begin to fill with pride. WORM is taking shape.

"It's good. It's Michelangelo," says Hasp with typical New York sarcasm. Then he promptly grabs the red can and retouches the patchy shading, before snatching the silver and redoing the edging. Finally he adds a yellow border.

"Not bad, not bad. For a first time it came out all right," nods Hasp some more. Praise indeed, but not as flattering as *buttaz, fat, cool* or even *hot and tempting*.



Painted queen in Queens

Doña, one of New York's few female graffiti artists, with one of her works at the Phun Phactory. "You have to be prepared to die for your art"

A SLICE OF THE BIG APPLE

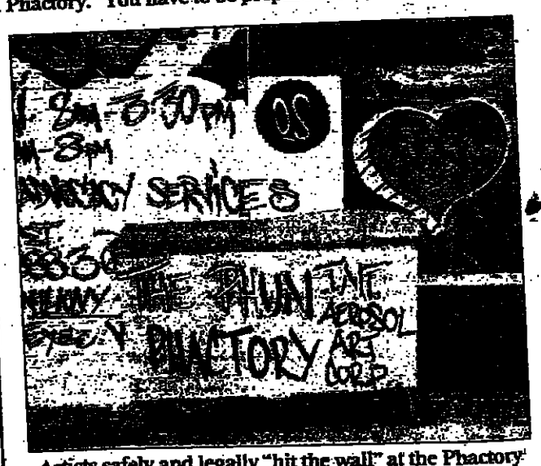
■ Jeremy Hart travelled to New York with British Airways (0345 222111). Until March 31 an Apex return fare, available 21 days in advance, costs £349.70 midweek from London, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham or £379.70 at weekends. All prices include taxes. World Offers are also available — see page Z7.

He stayed at the Grand Hyatt New York on Park Avenue at Grand Central Station. A double room costs £205 during the week or from £134 at the weekend, plus a £1.20 booking fee and 13.25 per cent tax. Reservations on 0345 581666 or 0181-335 1220.

■ The Phun Phactory is at 45-14 Davis Street, Long Island City, New York NY 11101-4306. It is close to the 45th Road-Courthouse Square Station on the Flushing local line, just three stops from Grand Central. Contact Pat Di Lillo (001 718 482 7486). The Phun Phactory has a Website: *http://www.phunphactory.org*, e-mail: *art@phunphactory.org*.

■ SoHo Down and Under, 300 West Broadway, New York NY 10013 (001 212 343 2557). Graffiti culture store. Good place to meet other graffiti fans and to get details of exhibitions.

■ Red tape: Visas are not necessary for British and Irish tourists planning to spend 90 days or less in the US as long as they have proof of onward travel.



Artists safely and legally "hit the wall" at the Phactory

Virgin MegaSavers.

New York from £189 return

SEAT BACK TV IN ECONOMY.

For world beating offers, that include all taxes, call us by 19 February on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic

Taxes are subject to change due to currency conversion. New York tax: £115 taxes £14.20
Book by 19 February 1998. Outbound travel by 31 March 1998.
Limited availability. Other restrictions apply.

THE KINGDOM OF SIAM

including 3 nights at the 5-star deluxe Shangri-La (voted one of the world's top 10 hotels) & 7 nights at the first-class Dusit Laguna at Phuket - all with the comfort of one of the best airlines in the world, Thai International

It is not very often that a travel opportunity arises whereby hotels and airline facilities of world renown become available at a remarkably low tariff as in our The Kingdom of Siam programme. Flights to and from Bangkok and onwards to Phuket are with Thai International, and hotel accommodation is provided at the 5-star deluxe Hotel Shangri-La in Bangkok located right on the banks of Chao Phraya river and the first class Dusit Laguna Hotel right on the beach at Phuket.

HOTEL SHANGRI-LA

Voted one of the world's top 10 hotels and located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River. The hotel has two swimming pools, a number of restaurants, lounges, shopping arcades and health club. All rooms are beautifully decorated and furnished and come with full facilities including bathroom, air-conditioning, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

HOTEL DUSIT LAGUNA PHUKET

The first-class Dusit Laguna Hotel is just one hour's flight from Bangkok where the traveller will find soft white sandy beaches and bays. The hotel enjoys an excellent location flanked by two lagoons overlooking the Andaman Sea, and is rated as Phuket's top hotel. In the lovely grounds is a large free-form swimming pool, tennis courts, pitch and putt and 3 restaurants. There are 226 well furnished rooms all with air-conditioning, bathroom/dressing area, hairdryer, TV, mini bar, and balcony.



10 nights from £695

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1998 - per person in a twin

Daily departures from 16 April to 20 June

All departure dates £695.00

Single Supplement £95 - Weekend Supplement £25

Inclusions: transportation throughout, 10 nights accommodation room only basis, knowledgeable local guides, UK departure tax. Not included: insurance, overseas airport taxes. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-6161000

VJV

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG

Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1663 ATOL 1823

Internet http://www.vjv.co.uk

Their office hours are Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm and 24 hours on telephone reservations from 9.00pm to 8.00pm. For personal reasons your office hours are 9am to 6pm weekdays only.

هكذا من الاصل

NEW YORK CITY: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Wide awake in the city that never sleeps

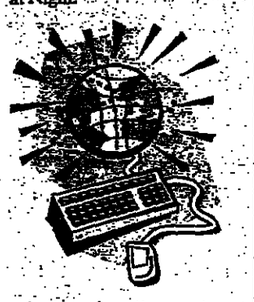
PICTURES



Against a backdrop of skyscrapers, skaters in Central Park create a winter wonderland. Whatever the time of year, the vast park, stretching from midtown to Harlem, is a prime site for people-watching

WEB WORLD

WHERE DO I START? For all you need to know about street art and for nearly 350 links to other graffiti sites, start with *http://www.graffiti.org/index.html* For a generally hip guide to New York, *http://www.nyweb.com/mainmenu.html* For tips on styles, trends and nightlife try the superb website at *http://www.villagevoice.com/* from the famed publication, for the priceless guidance of its Essential Guide to New York at Night.



MUGGING-UP: The "Art or Anarchy" site at *http://www.bronxsidewalks.com/graffiti/index.html* is dedicated to graffiti in the Bronx. The bookshop at *http://amazon.com* carries 68 titles on graffiti. *http://www.shalts.com/hypermail/jokes/0166.html* has running gags, while you can see examples of New York graffiti from 1970-1995 at *http://www.jaze.com/graffiti/nygraffiti.html*

KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL: "Taggers" should check the page at *http://www.graffiti.org/index/shows.html* for competitions and events.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

The best in town

The telephone prefix for New York City from the UK is 001 212

HOTTEST RESTAURANT

Le Cirque 2000, 455 Madison Avenue (303 7788)
RECENTLY relocated and as gorgeous as the food. Social rather than captains-of-industry dining, so more fun. One of the best three in town and expensive. Starting at £60 per person. Book several weeks ahead.

BEST STEAK

Smith and Wollensky, 20 East 49th Street (753 1530)
CLASSIC steaks the size of Alaska, about £12.50.

BEST COCKTAIL

THE MARTINI is the fashionable cocktail and Fifty Seven Fifty Seven Restaurant Bar, 57 East 57th Street (758 5757) offers 15 different concoctions at £8.75 a shaker. Designed by I.M. Pei, also responsible for the glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.

BEST VIEW

THE EMPIRE State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue (736 3100) remains the classic (adults £4, children £2). Open 9.30am-midnight. Don't miss the Manhattan simulator ride in the basement (£7 and £6 for children).

BEST TOUR

ON LAND: hop on and off the Gray Line (397 2600) open-top bus at more than 40 stops. Combination ticket allows use over two days (adults £18, children £11).
In the air: Liberty Helicopter Tours (967 6464). Flights cost from £26 for four and a half minutes in the air.
On water: Staten Island Ferry free to foot passengers.

BEST BARS

WITH A VIEW; Greatest Bar on Earth on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center.
Microbrewery: Heartland Brewery in Union Square.
Traditional dive: Milady's and Ear Inn in SoHo.
Grooviest: Also in SoHo, Pravda at 281 Lafayette Street (226 4944).

BEST MUSEUM

Museum of Modern Art (Moma), 11 West 53rd Street (708 9400), admission is £5.90 for adults; children under 16 accompanied by adults are free.

BEST HOTEL

The Mark, 25 East 77th Street (744 4300).Friendly, super-efficient and gorgeous: 30 yards from Madison and 150 yards from Fifth Avenue (Museum Mile) and Central Park. A double costs from £234 per night (room only) but at weekends comes down to £178 per night per couple with breakfast. Book through Leading Hotels of the World (0800 181123).

Ripe for the picking: prime sites for visitors to the Big Apple

BEST LISTING

THE WEEKLY *Time Out New York* £1.20.

BEST GUIDE BOOK

Eyewitness New York (Dorling Kindersley £14.99).

BEST FREE ATTRACTION

SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Avenue (833 8100) All kinds of interactive gizmos and gadgetry.

BEST SHOP

CENTURY 21, 22 Cortlandt Street — sheer heaven for designer discounts.

BEST SHOW

WEDNESDAY Amateur Night at 7.30pm at Harlem's Apollo Theatre, 253 West 125th Street (749 5838). Tickets from £6.25.

INSIDE TRACK

Getting there: British Airways (0345 222111) World Offers: £209.70 midweek, book by Wednesday, travel by March 31.
Getting about: Walk and take the subway, a bargain 95p per ride.
Staying there: If the Mark is beyond your budget, there is no shortage of decent alternatives. My favourite mid-range midtown hotel is the Warwick, 65 West 54th Street (247 2700). Built by William Randolph Hearst in 1927, it has spacious rooms and was recently renovated. Close to many key tourist attractions including MoMA, Radio City, Broadway, Fifth Avenue and Carnegie Hall. Doubles from £160 per couple, room-only. Discounts at weekends.
The bargain no-frills midtown choice has to be the Pickwick Arms, 230 East 51st Street (355 0300). Good rooftop views, comfortable lobby, functional but spotless rooms with cable TV, phone and room service. Newly redecorated. Doubles from £65 per couple, room only.



Cheap eats: hot dog stand

EATS

Try these: Hot dog from any stall.
Deli: Dean & DeLuca at 560 Broadway (226 6800) for coffee, spices and the rest. Half the price, no chic and favoured by New Yorkers is Zabar's at 80th and Broadway (787 2000).
Breakfast: American Festival Café, Rockefeller Plaza, 20 West 50th Street (332 7620). Sit on the terrace in the summer. In the winter, move inside and watch the ice skaters out on the terrace.
Lunch: The Oyster Bar (490 6650) at Grand Central Station, and The Boathouse Restaurant (517 2233) in Central Park, open from March until November. Call to book a table on Friday and Saturday nights.
Ice-cream: Rumpelmayers, 50 Central Park South (755 5800). They've been making New York's best banana splits here for more than 60 years and the banana fudge is a dream.
Dinner: Money to burn: Le Cirque 2000 (see above).
Cheaper, plus music: Live jazz, gospel and soul food (£9.40 plus drinks) at Sylvia's, 328 Lennox Avenue in Harlem (996 0660). Though much safer these days it's best to get a cab into Harlem and they'll call you one on your departure. Tie in a visit with amateur night at the Apollo.
Stylish inexpensive trattoria: Il Bagatto at 192 East 2nd Street in the East Village (228 0977). Three courses with house wine around £16.25. Remember to add 15-20 per cent service in restaurants and bars.

SHOPS NOT TO DROP

Clothes: Century 21 for discounted designer fashion, luggage, sunglasses. Best department store experience: Barneys (Madison at 65th Street) for cutting-edge fashion and Saks Fifth Avenue (50th Street) for fashion and everything else.
Tapes, CDs: J&R Music World and Computer World, 15-31 Park Row.
Weird and wonderful gadgets: Brookstone on Fulton and Water Streets at the South Street Seaport (touristy but fun to stroll).
Children's toys: F.A.O. Schwarz, 767 Fifth Avenue at 58th Street.
Sports goods: Niketown, 6 East 57th Street between Madison and 5th, is the hottest new sports store for the sporty look, but Paragon Sporting Goods, 867 Broadway at 18th Street, is much better for sports equipment as well as the look.
Weekend flea market: Sixth Avenue and 26th Street is where everyone still in town at the weekend heads. Great fun.
Take a guide: Joy Weiner (873 6791), ex-Saks buyer, is your woman for a customised shopping tour. £52 per hour taxi tour for 1-3 people (minimum three-hour booking).

FURTHER INFORMATION

NYCVB Visitors Information Centre, 2 Columbus Circle (397 8222, 24 hours). Maps, discount booklets and events line.



Shipmates: children adore the excitement of New York

TONY STONE

Paul Abse tries the 24-hour experience

Some cities can be done in a day, others may need three, but anything less than a week is an insult to New York. Three years ago I managed a full seven days with my young children, who declared New York the most exciting city on earth. Usually my trips are shorter, so I skip sleep and stretch the days. Every time I go, I discover some new marvel.

New Yorkers themselves endlessly bitch about the city, even though they would live nowhere else. The darkness that once gripped Manhattan is a thing of the past. Now, New York is not even in the FBI's top 100 most dangerous US cities. But its inhabitants still revel in gory tales of slaughtered cab drivers. It is part of the city's mythic fabric: in New York, everyone loves to talk: everyone asks anyone anything and no one thinks they're crazy for doing it.

Sitting drinking an Indiana Pale on the patio terrace outside the Heartland Brewery in Union Square, I watch an old woman shuffle up to a young man at the next table and stuff a dollar bill in his hand. "That's for your next beer." No rhyme nor reason. On the subway a large woman with an 18-inch feather sticking out of her hat asks me what I do. I tell her I'm a travel writer. "I'm a writer, too, but mostly an artist and scientist. My last book was *Unexpurgated New York ... Have a wild night.*" And she's off at the next stop.

At Spring Street I leave the subway and meet up with my cousin Nathan who works in Washington but returns to Manhattan every weekend ("No one in their right mind would stay in Washington when they could be here. Washington may be America's capital, but New York is the capital of the world").

As we stroll through SoHo at the heart of the 24-hour city, we decide we want to eat something on the hoof to save time. Nathan immediately seeks guidance from a fully kitted-out firefighter sitting eating an ice-cream outside a building his colleagues are checking for fire. He steers us around the block to Ben's, "the best takeout pizza in town".

On another evening as I dine in the hottest spot in Manhattan, the sumptuous, much-hyped, recently relocated Le Cirque 2000, social X-rays at the next table lean over to ask me what I'm having. Meanwhile, two waiters argue over which wine will best accompany my meal.

New York is a friendly, feisty, in-your-face heaven where you can pay £100 a head at restaurants such as Le Cirque or 60p for a foot-long hot dog. Then there are the freebies: the Staten Island ferry is now free to foot passengers: the Sony Wonder Technology Lab — and one of the best new museums I have visited anywhere in the past five years — is free and so is Central Park, which is deserving of a weekend break of its own.

By day you can gallery hop down Museum Mile, melt your plastic on Madison Avenue or simply watch the daily carnival in Central Park. At night you can sip vodka cocktails and watch gorgeous models smoke fat cigars in Pravda, one of Lafayette Street's groovy bars.

At around 11pm when Washington is already a morgue, the streets of SoHo, the East and West Village and Chelsea are just starting to fill.

Walking down Thompson and Prince at 2am, the bars are crammed, the restaurants heaving, the streets thick with Eurotrash and media people. The air is electric. Nathan and I still have Lucky Strike and Cafe Noir to check out before thinking about a second dinner. Fortunately it's only 3am. Three days can feel like a week in the city that never sleeps.

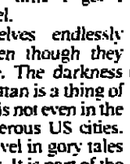
There is so much beauty and interest to be found in our own islands but all too often they are forsaken for a package arrangement to some far-off destination. Some of our most beautiful places are also the most inaccessible but with the aid of the expedition cruise ship *MV Clipper Adventurer* we will venture to the remotest isles which pepper the British and Irish coastlines.

Our Island Odyssey can be as relaxing or as energetic as you want it to be. Whether your main interest lies in ornithology, botany, history or just the appreciation of all things natural you will find a rewarding experience. Tony Soper and his team will be on hand to answer you questions and provide informative after-dinner talks and briefings.

Join Tony Soper for an ISLAND ODYSSEY

EXPLORING THE BRITISH ISLES ABOARD THE *MV CLIPPER ADVENTURER*

6-18 June 1998

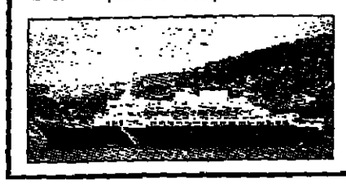


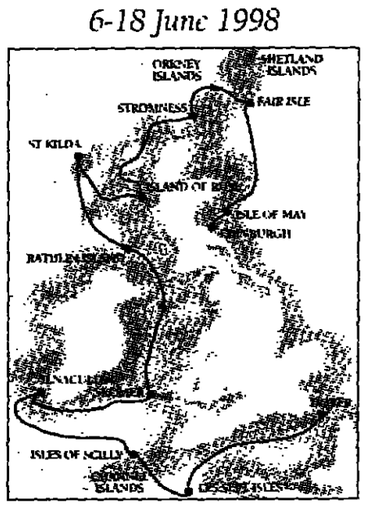
THE MV CLIPPER ADVENTURER

The 122 passenger vessel *Clipper Adventurer* is undergoing a total refit (£6 million) in a Scandinavian yard this summer and when completed will be one of the finest expedition cruise vessels in the world. All her 63 cabins will have outside views, two lower beds, private shower and toilet and individual temperature controls.

Equipped with stabilisers this ocean going vessel also has the benefit of an ice-strengthened hull making her suitable for cruising in the polar regions. Like all good expedition ships she has her fleet of inflatable Zodiac craft which are ideal for forays ashore even in the remotest of places. There is also an 'open bridge' policy for passengers to visit, see the charts and meet the officers.

Good continental and American food is served in the delightful single-sitting dining room by Clipper's American staff. There are two lounges and a library card room. An unusual feature is a spacious covered promenade which





is ideal for relaxing and viewing and in addition there is an open area on the Boat Deck and an observation platform just below the bridge which is ideal for wildlife viewing.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Dover. Embark *Clipper Adventurer* in the afternoon and sail.
Day 2 Cruise through the Channel. Anchor at **Les Sept-Isles** and explore the oldest bird sanctuary in France.
Day 3 Isles of Scilly. Spend the day on Tresco visiting the sub-tropical Abbey Gardens and superb white-sand beaches.
Day 4 Using our zodiacs visit **Ilnacullin** Island, famous for its exquisite gardens. We expect to find harbour seals on the islets.
Day 5 In the early morning sail close to **Grassholm** home of some 30,000 pairs of gannets. Visit **Skomer**, home to great numbers of manx shearwaters, kittiwakes and puffins.
Day 6 Rathlin Island. Drive to the seabird cliffs of the Kebble reserve: towering stacks with teeming seabird ledges, astonishing numbers of auks, fulmars, shags and gulls. Seals can be found near the harbour.
Day 7 St Kilda. Home of our greatest concentrations of gannets and fulmars. Weather permitting, we shall land on **Hirta** to see the abandoned village and climb to the seabird cliffs of Conachair. Sail past the Stacs-an-Armin and Stac Lee.
Day 8 Isle of Rum. Anchoring in Loch Scresort, we shall be surrounded by splendid mountain scenery. This has recently been the base for the introduction of the sea eagle. Visit Kinloch Castle.
Day 9 Cruise the Minch watching for dolphins and minke whales. Land on the beaches of **Handa** with its fine bird cliffs.
Day 10 Cruise past the Old Man of Hoy and berth in the centre of **Stromness**. Visit the bird-rich interior and see the Maes Howe archaeological site. Mainland is a birder's paradise with healthy populations of bonxies and loons. Sailing by way of Scapa Flow, pass close to the seabird cliffs of Copinsay.
Day 11 Fair Isle. The most isolated settlement in the British Isles. Visit the bird observatory where there is always the chance of a fall of migrants, anything from a red-spotted Bluethroat to a red-footed Falcon.
Day 12 Isle of May. This superb bird island is the ideal place to come face to face with a thousand puffins and also has a thriving population of eiders and terns. Fulmars, kittiwakes and shags are here in large numbers. Search for seals and in the afternoon we unmanoeuvre the Bass Rock, historic home of Britain's oldest gannetry.
Day 13 Edinburgh. Morning disembarkation.

PRICES PER PERSON

Prices from £2795 per person in a category 1 cabin to £3995 per person in a suite.

Single cabins from £3795.

Price includes: 12 nights aboard the *Clipper Adventurer* on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees and donations, guest speakers, expedition leader and staff.
Not included: Travel insurance, tips to ship's crew.

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424
ATOL 3108 ABTA V321X

GOING NOWHERE?

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

SPRING CRUISES ON THE TOPAZ

"All-Inclusive" Transatlantic Cruise

Depart Alicante 17th April • 18 night cruise • Ports of call Malta, Gibraltar, Malaga, Madeira, The Azores, Bermuda • Cruise includes drinks, taxes and tips • 3 night stay in Florida • From just £1289 including return flights from Gatwick or Manchester

Easter Educational Cruises

7 night cruises departing 3rd and 10th April • Greece & Greek Islands, Israel, Cyprus, Syria & Turkey • Great value for money fares.

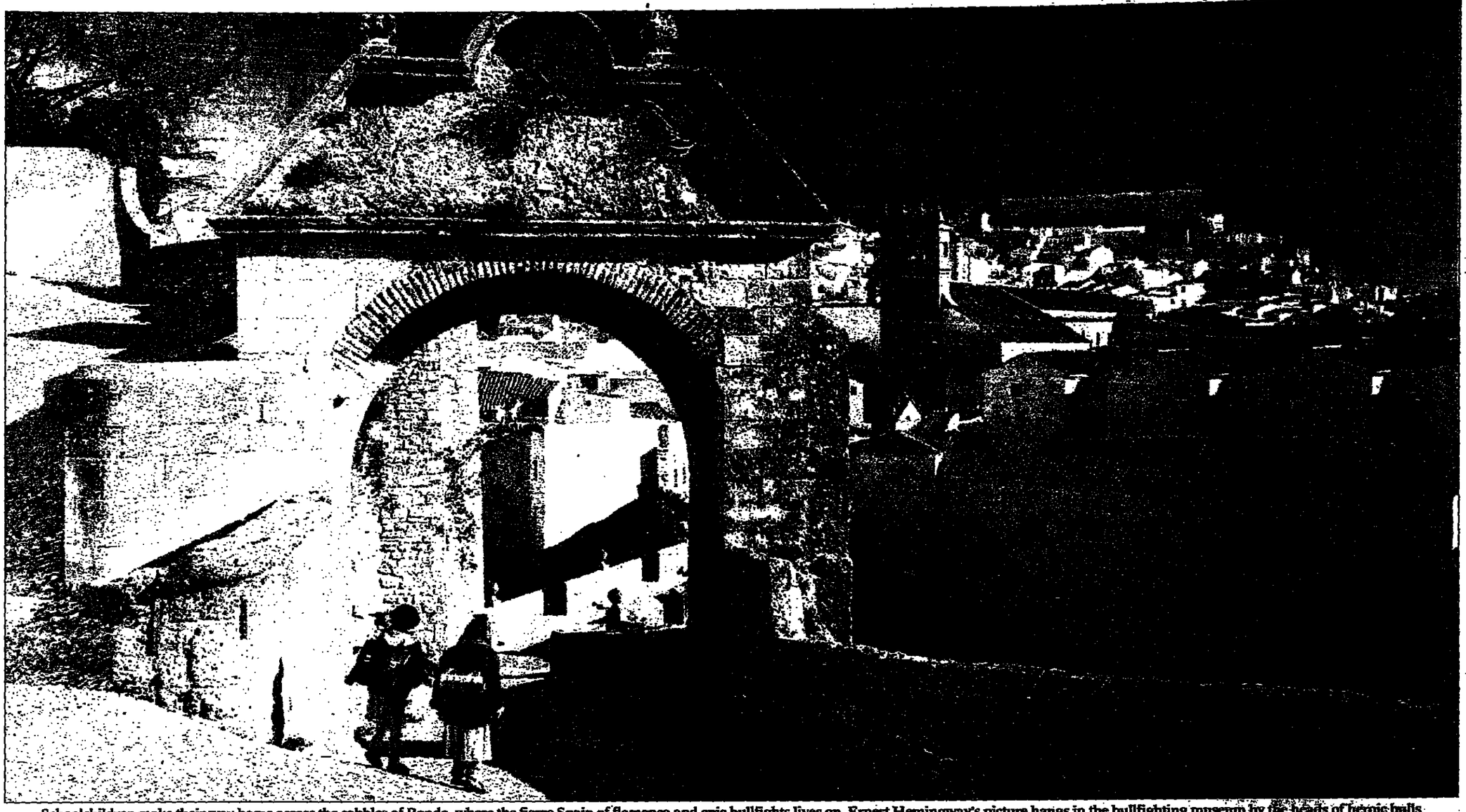
For further details call our 24 hour brochureline: 01293 433041
Reservations 01293 433030

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

Voyages of Discovery, Premiere House, Betts Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2GB
Tel: 01293 433030 Fax: 01293 433036
(Voyages of Discovery is a trading name of Falmouth Travel Ltd. Address as above.)

هكذا من الاصل

SUMMER SUN 1998: WALKING HOLIDAYS



TONY STONE

Schoolchildren make their way home across the cobbles of Ronda, where the fierce Spain of flamenco and epic bullfights lives on. Ernest Hemingway's picture hangs in the bullfighting museum by the heads of heroic bulls

An amiable amble in Andalucia

If you don't mind a gentle stroll, there is a corner of southwest Spain which is forever England, as Stephen McClarence discovered

Forty miles over the hills is Torremolinos, with its bars, its amusement arcades, its crooks, its steak and chips, its lager louts and its stack-'em-high-sell-'em cheap holidays. You wouldn't necessarily guess.

On a vine-shaded terrace, Jane Arbuthnott pours Spanish chardonnay. "Do try the cheese," she urges, "it's not the goat's cheese. That's tomorrow. This one could be a bit sheepy." She passes around the water biscuits.

Jane and her husband Hugh have lived high in the Andalucian hills for eight years. She once cooked directors' lunches for firms in the City. He ran a freight business



in East Africa after an Army career. The regimental photos — of the young Hugh, eyeballing the camera on a foggy British day — are hung in the lavatory.

At a London dinner party in the mid-Eighties, someone mentioned a holiday-home venture starting up in the *pueblos blancos* (white towns) area of Andalucia. It was a good evening; the wine flowed; Hugh and Jane signed up. They sailed from Plymouth and arrived just in time for nine solid weeks of rain.

But they decided to live here, and in 1990 launched Andalucian Safari, a company specialising in walking tours. They do ambles rather than rambles, with donkeys for the easily fatigued, timetabled siestas for the terminally tired and back-up from a small army of Andalucians ready to strap saddle bags and slice lemons for the G&Ts.

"You build up a network of people to help," Jane says. "You get one good egg and they bring in more good eggs."

The walks, attracting many older people and the odd duke, cover eight to 12 miles a day. They explore traditional muleteers' routes through glades of mossy oaks, across miles of hidden meadows, past olive groves and orange orchards, fields of poppies and hilltop pines. On one side, a crumbling Moorish castle. On the other, a hillside village, a jigsaw of white walls and orange roofs.

It is as Spanish and, crucially, as unknown Spanish, as it comes. But the atmosphere is like an English country house party, especially as the Arbuthnotts are blessed with the good host's gift of making total strangers feel like fairly old friends.

Their farmhouse, all honeysuckle and wisteria, is four miles from the nearest village. It's a little outpost of Englishness: family photos, small stacks of *Country Life* and battered leather armchairs that more suburban owners would long ago have repaired and ruined.

English? The daily timetable features a 6pm cup of tea, while the list of Useful Spanish Phrases includes: "Any more brandy?" and the shoulder bags for walks come from the Army and Navy Stores in Market Harborough.

Everything is planned. Guests and their luggage are colour-coded on arrival. The 22 wines served over the week are painstakingly listed. The Arbuthnotts' CV includes not only their children (Arabella and Hughie) but their dogs (Annie and Mole) and cats (Pimmie and Memelada).

More wine? A liqueur? The Rock of Gibraltar, high over the horizon, glows a dusky orange in the setting sun. The village lights glitter down the valley. A crescent moon hangs like a lantern in the trees.

There's a misty hint of the distant Atlas mountains of Morocco. Jane leans confidentially across the table. "That's Africa over there," she whispers. We forget we were at Gatwick four hours ago. And the cheese is indeed a bit sheepy.

Next morning we set off walking. Pedro and his mules bring up the rear. A stocky man in his sixties, he picks oregano for us to smell, cuts open almonds for us to eat and shouts "*Ole!*" whenever we pass a fightable bull.

We pause at a farmer's cottage for beers. The sitting room is dominated by stark black-and-white photographs of his in-laws as a young married couple. They gaze out with dark-eyed intensity. To their left is a fridge-freezer; to their right, a 2ft-high plastic Donald Duck money box. I greet passers-by with a hearty Spanish "*hola!*" They reply with "hello" or "hi."

After a steep climb, we reach the campsite where we spend two nights. A table of drinks is waiting by a cluster of tents as big as garages on the gently sloping sides of a wooded valley. It's clear we aren't going to rough it. These are tents for people who don't like camping. They have proper beds with proper headboards, duvets, hot water bottles, bedside lamps, running water, showers and private lavatories. "Porta-Potty Mark Four," Hugh says. "Great improvement on Mark Three."

The only sounds are the hissing cicadas, the birds, a gamelan of clanging goats' bells, the rustle of wind in the trees and the hooting of occasional trains down the valley. The railway line, with its red tip-up signals and its Hornby 00 stations, was built last century by a Scot, Lord Farringdon. "Quite by chance, we had two of his great-grandsons on a safari last year," Hugh says over dinner. "They'd never met before. More wine? Another liqueur?"

We breakfast in a bar at Cortes, a nearby village down a winding road lined by fig trees and wild pink snapdragons. The village is as neat and pretty as any in the white towns area (all its buildings are painted white).

Old men sit outside their houses, watching the day pass and shading their eyes from the dazzling sunlight. Doorways offer glimpses of dark, heavily furnished rooms behind bead curtains.

At 7.30am, the bar is full of swarthy men in swarthy caps. They drink cognac and eat pork fat on garlic toast. We try to do the same. This is a regular Arbuthnott stop. The locals are forbidden to use the specially cleaned lavatories until the visitors have gone.

On the walk up the valley, we meet two men carrying a bag of goat manure. One of them points to his mouth and repeats, "*Dracula, vampiro, Dracula.*" Hugh translates: "He thinks bat guano is the best. Then sheep, goat, horse and cow, in that order."

A picnic lunch, its waiting across a meadow of celandines — quails and quinces, raisins marinaded in brandy, blankets and cushions under the trees, mares' tail clouds in a pure blue sky, three o'clock and time for a siesta.

A short siesta. We carry on down a steep limestone valley — more scramble than amble — and catch our first glimpse of Ronda, a pretty, if commercialised, town perched on sheer inland cliffs with a towering bridge slotted into the 300ft gorge that divides it.

Time for a few Spanish essentials. Ronda's elegant bullring is variously described as the oldest and biggest in Spain. Certainly it is the most venerated. Pedro Romero, father of modern bullfighting, was based here, killing 200 bulls a year for 28 years.

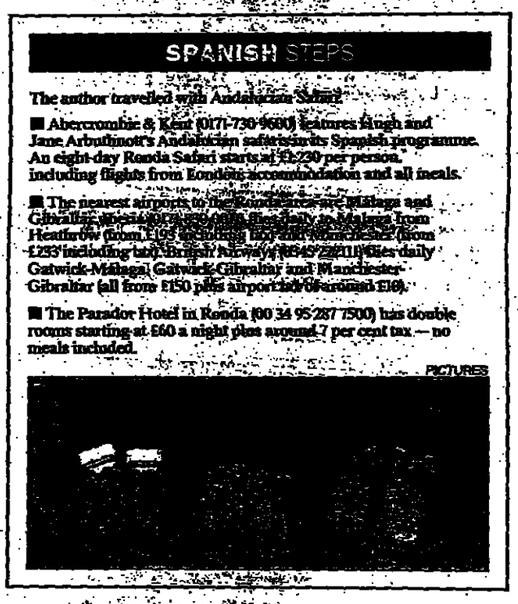
Hemingway and Orson Welles were regular visitors and their photographs hang in the bullfighting museum under the mounted heads of bulls which died with particular dignity. The bloody swords and darts have been tactfully removed from their necks.

As we finish a late restaurant dinner, flamenco bursts in. The singer, a plump woman in a tight scarlet dress, clenches her fists and scrapes up her eyes as she hollers songs of tragic love. Her brother struts his fingers over his guitar. A pair of dancers whirl out of the kitchens and stalk each other round the tables, eyes locked intensely, like predators. It's raw and fierce and has nothing to do with the tourist clichés of castanets and frilly shawls.

And nothing at all to do with Torremolinos. More wine?



Picnic lunch with Andalucian Safari; and (right) kitted out in appropriate footwear



SPANISH STEPS

The author travelled with Andalucian Safari.

■ Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) features Hugh and Jane Arbuthnott's Andalucian safaris in its Spanish programme. An eight-day Ronda Safari starts at £1,230 per person, including flights from London, accommodation and all meals.

■ The nearest airports to the Ronda area are Malaga and Gibraltar. Iberia (0345 200 717) flies daily to Malaga from Heathrow (from £193 including tax), Gatwick (from £233 including tax), British Airways (0345 222 111) flies daily Gatwick-Malaga, Gatwick-Gibraltar and Manchester-Gibraltar (all from £150 plus airport taxes of around £16).

■ The Parador Hotel in Ronda (00 34 95 287 7500) has double rooms starting at £60 a night plus around 7 per cent tax — no meals included.

PICTURES

OPEAN COMMUNITY
D KINGDOM OF
AT BRITAIN
THERN IRELAND
Out of this world!
I came back from my Saga Holiday 2 weeks older and 10 years younger...
...Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details, so you can have the time of your life. Service, quality and unbeatable value are just some of the hallmarks. So, whether it's a hotel stay, coach tour or cruise, our friendly staff, carefully chosen accommodation and well-planned itineraries ensure you enjoy a well-earned break.
45 years of listening to comments and suggestions has taught us just what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many people book with us again and again!
If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour brochure request line now.
FREE 0800 300 456 Ext A724
SAGA
FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE
Send for your brochures today
Worldwide
USA
Canada
Rest of the world
Flight only
Cruises
Ocean
River
Saga Rose (exclusive to Saga)
Europe & the Mediterranean
Hotel Stays
Coach Tours
United Kingdom
Hotel Stays
Coach Holidays:
Tours
Single Centre
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
Address
Town County
Postcode Tel No. (area code)
Date of Birth (Mr) /__/19__ Date of Birth (Mrs/Miss) /__/19__
Do you currently receive brochures from Saga? Yes ☐ No ☐
Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd, FREEPOST (NT2710), Peterlee X, Co. Durham SR88 1SH. You do not need a stamp.
Saga Holidays Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to these companies to enable them to do so.
DXF05

When you find Rosa's home grown figs on your doorstep breakfast tastes that much sweeter.
Rosa frequently enjoys [illegible] with her guests at La Casarella, perched high on the [illegible] gesture, and typical of those extra personal touches that make a holiday with The Magic of Italy. Simple, but so special. For your copy of one of our brochures featuring specially selected hotels, villas and apartments in [illegible] locations, see your travel agent or call us on 0990 462442.
Quote ref: TCM
THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT Magic Portugal
SURNAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TCM

هكذا من الاصل

Veni, vidi, vici . . . and then lunch

Bill Powell and friend pack a picnic or two and build up hearty appetites on ancient trails in Tuscany

Déjà vu. We are sitting on a wooded hillside with a bottle of wine and looking out at cypresses and vineyards and tiled farmhouses. A hoopoe swoops by. We are only a couple of hours' walk away from the stumbling camcorder legions and bus jams of Florence.

It dawns on me where and when I have seen these blue vistas before — in the Uffizi gallery yesterday. In fact, I daydreamed about walking right into the paintings and making for that idyllic Renaissance countryside glimpsed in the backgrounds.

The hillsides around Florence do not seem to have changed much in the past 500 years. Local boys Giotto, Fra Angelico and Leonardo da Vinci would probably recognise the place. From our picnic spot I can see a turreted village, half-hidden behind hills and umbrella pines, that might well have appeared behind the magnificent nose of Lorenzo de' Medici.

No-neck Lorenzo would probably have enjoyed the sort of lunch we lugged along wooded paths and across broom-scented heaths from the little *alimentari* in the suburb of Settignano. There is something about Tuscany that inspires thoughts of food and drink, and a walk there with my old friend Mike Jarman, who with his wife Anne, runs the Old Fire Engine House restaurant in Ely, certainly had the makings of a classic fat boys' outing.

"Think of it as research," Mike had said, reaching down for a large bottle of wine and making prodigal choices among the local salami, cheeses, breads and steeped olives. We staggered out with our loot, but not before we had topped it off with a fragrant sprig of tomatoes and a few cherries. Fellow walkers Sandra and Robert Jones, from Wolverhampton, observed, as they packed their own more orthodox trekkers' requirements of energy bars and mineral water, that no one would be able to accuse Mike or me of neglecting the growing boy within.

Apart from his nutrition consultancy skills, Mike has sharp eyesight, which proved useful during our ten-day walk around the countryside northeast of Florence, using Headwater Holidays' excellent but small-print maps. We had to watch out for the Club Alpino Italiano's tiny, painted waymarkers on trees and rocks. On my own, I would probably have ended up in Slovenia.

The first day's 15km walk took about five hours and was no problem, even for dedicated lunchers like us. We saw orchids, helleborines asphodels, tassel hyacinth and wild sweet peas. *And* we startled a deer, found some porcupine quills and heard a pheasant — not bad for Italy, where the popularity of hunting means everything that moves sooner or later gets potted at.

Some of the Club Alpino routes, overgrown to the point of becoming tunnels, were the vestiges of once-important wheel-rutted stone roads. We found the occasional old stone direction-post. Some tracks, probably made for pack animals, took us through unpopulated uplands.

Through this tapestry-like landscape we followed roads that had probably been in use since Roman times.

Our longest walk — the 19km from Bivigliano to Vicchio — started badly. Descending through chestnut coppices above Polcanto, Mike twisted his ankle and I broke a strap on my trekking sandals — at exactly the spot, we found out, where a week before a walker in her seventies had fallen and badly injured a foot.

We were luckier. A bit of ingenuity fixed the sandal and Mike's ankle responded favourably to rest and chianti in the village bar.

We took an ancient trackway to some overgrown walls marked on the map as Comune di Monterotondo and made our way up through old forest to a ruined tower marking the remains of a 13th-century castle.

That evening, at the posh Villa Campestri hotel, which overlooks the birthplace of Fra Angelico at Vicchio, we were shameless in our enthusiasm for raw *porcini* with finely sliced parmesan, and for the chef's special spaghetti with orange and lemon and chilli.

Then, at Acone, we sat on Signora Veronica Billi's guesthouse veranda watching fireflies, listening to nightingales and road-testing her home-made *grappa* — after which it was surprisingly difficult to say "red-backed shrike", one of which had been seen frequenting the bushes outside the bathroom window.

Despite Mike's mapmanship, we got lost on our way down to the Sieve valley. After barging undergrowth for a few miles we scraped through hedges into an olive grove and found we had chanced on a waymark. Then a section of main road provided us with a salutary reminder of the world of traffic before we climbed from Scopeti through trees and fields to Castiglioni.

At last, passing under a grand and dilapidated gateway and welcomed by two huge yellow-eyed sheepdogs, we came — as once, according to a verse in his *Divine Comedy*, did Dante Alighieri — to the Villa Busini.

Guest rooms at the 13th-going-on-15th-century Villa Busini have four-poster beds, stone floors, 4ft-thick walls and the sort of *armoires* that could conceal a dead horse or a poker game. Signora Maria-Rosaria de Marco Nicolodi's dining room has ranks of old crested tableware, an odd-man-out Italian Futurist teapot, and 18th-century glasses.

We carried out an evaluation of the Busini wine — now in its second year of production and looking good — and enjoyed Signora Nicolodi's home cooking and the Castiglioni olive oil.

Looking across the valley from the loggia and the garden's lime and wisteria walks, even the undistinguished town of Rufina managed to resemble a Leonardo sketch from a distance. It was hard to tear ourselves away.

Our last serious outdoor lunch was beside some vineyards on the edge of woods on the way to Pontassieve railway station. Swifts and martins were criss-crossing a wide-open sky and we polished off fennel-flavoured salami and grocer's chianti. It was time to head off down our last hillside and catch the train to Florence.

"And where shall we go for dinner?" Mike asked.

BILL POWELL



FACT FILE

- Bill Powell travelled with Headwater Holidays of Northwich, Cheshire (01606 813367). Return flights from Gatwick to Florence with half-board start at £789. Cost for self-drivers based on four people sharing a car and including ferry transfers start at £519.
- Villa Campestri, Via de Campestri 19/22, 50039 Vicchio, Florence, (00 39 55 8490107). Closed for renovation from March: double room with breakfast from £86. Half-board supplement around £21.
- La Sosta a' Busini, 50068 Castiglioni di Rufina, Florence (00 39 55 8397809); bed and breakfast per person from £60. Half board per person, £38.



TONY STONE

Intrepid walkers can scale great heights in Austria or opt for less demanding walks tailored to suit individual interests such as food and drink

Best foot forward

NOT SO very long ago, walking holidays took place in the more rugged parts of the United Kingdom, or for the intrepid, in the mountains of Austria or Switzerland, where the facilities are superb and the trails well marked. *Robin Neillands writes.* Nowadays it is possible to walk just about anywhere, and in addition to traditional footpath holidays, offering great scenery and long days on the trail, there are themed walking holidays, covering everything from military history and pilgrimages to food and wine. Here is a selection of walking holidays for 1998.

RAMBLERS
PO Box 43, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6JL; 01707 331133
IT offers more than 100 destinations worldwide, from Andorra to Australia, including the UK. Walks are graded according to difficulty, and prices include flights, transfers, hotel accommodation, meals and the services of a Ramblers' Leader. A week in the UK costs from £200, two weeks in Madeira in April will cost £695 and two weeks exploring the hot springs, geysers and lava fields of Iceland this summer costs from £1,095.

SHERPA *131a Heston Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW5 0RD; 0181-577 2717*
OFFERS a worldwide range of destinations, with a slight bias towards France, where guided and self-guided holidays, some with a theme, are a feature of the programme. Among trips that caught my eye are the Mountains and Vineyards Trails, through the wine regions of Alsace, Burgundy and the Loire, eight days' self-guided from £640. This includes flights and transfers and half-board accommodation in some splendid country hotels, many owned by the vignerons, and daily luggage transfer.

Those who speak French and enjoy getting off the too-well-beaten track will enjoy the Albigensian Bastides tour in the Languedoc, and history buffs will take the Way of St James from Le Puy to the hill-town of Conques, spending two weeks in splendid countryside from £760.

BELLE FRANCE
15 East Street, Rye, TN31 7JY East Sussex; 01797 223777
GETTING walkers into the lesser-known parts of France is the aim of this well-established little company, with self-guided walks in the Puisaye, the Auvergne, the Velay around Le Puy, the Livradois, the Massif Central and the Jura. These walks tend to be shorter and form part of a longer holiday.

Continued on page 30



At the ancient Villa Busini, four-poster beds and superb home cooking await visitors

UNION-CASTLE LINE

THE RELAUNCH OF A LEGEND

What better time than the Millennium to celebrate the Centenary of one of the greatest shipping lines, ever. For your free brochure of our gala 66-night cruise around Africa and the Spice Islands of the Indian Ocean, call 01703 22 62 32

www.union-castle-line.com

CENTENARY VOYAGE

DECEMBER 1999 - FEBRUARY 2000

TT142

HAV'A SUMMER HOLIDAY THIS WINTER.

Even as Britain shivers, the weather in Eilat is bright and hot. Where better to sizzle in the sun, from just £285 a week? Eilat is just five hours away, with flights from Luton, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester.

CALL LONGWOOD ON 0181 551 4494

EILAT

HAV'A GREAT HOLIDAY IN ISRAEL

ATOL 2199 ABTA V6754

SPECIAL OFFER

from £499

HONG KONG, BANGKOK + BEACH

3 nts Hong Kong, 4 nts Bangkok, 5 nts Cha-Am

STANFORD, Hong Kong: excellent medium class hotel in Kowloon. Restaurants, bar, airconditioned rooms: TV, minibar, phone, bath/shower. (Single rooms: have shower only).
ASIA, Bangkok: good medium class hotel, centrally located near Siam Square. Pool, fitness room, 24 hour coffee shop. Rooms are airconditioned with TV, radio, phone, bath and shower.
REGENT, Cha-Am: charming 1st class hotel, set on a 4 mile stretch of sandy beach. Choice of restaurants, bar, swimming pools, fitness room, tennis, squash. Shuttle bus service into Hua Hin. Rooms are airconditioned with phone, TV, radio, minibar, bath, shower and balcony.

Departure dates:	Price:	Departure dates:	Price:
17 Feb '98	£659	04,18 Jun	£499
24 Feb,03 Mar	£619	02 Jul	£899
19,26 Mar '98	£599	09,23 Jul	£919
09 Apr	£649	13 Aug	£899
16 Apr	£619	03,10 Sep	£799
07,21 May	£499	01,22 Oct	£659
11 Jun	£519	05,12 Nov	£619

HONG KONG ONLY:
3 nts: 21 Feb - 16 Mar ~~£209~~; 5 nts: 21 Feb - 15 Mar ~~£349~~

The price includes: Scheduled flights, Heathrow, UK Dept tax: £20, 12 nts accom (no meals). Transfers. Price per person sharing twin. Not included: Local dept tax (HK£ 58 approx, Thailand: £5 approx). Optional insurance: £55. Booking conditions apply.

To book, telephone: (open daily inc Sat/Sun)
01306 744300
Fax: 01306 744334
ABTA V2588
ATOL 132

The Travel Collection, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ.



India

For the discerning traveller

Experience India, a country of incomparable beauty and fascinating cultural diversity, with the leading specialist tour operator. Greaves Tours offers you the entire sub-continent with tailor-made tours catering for every taste and requirement. For the ultimate experience of India and beyond talk to one of our knowledgeable travel consultants or request a copy of our latest brochure today.

0171 487 9111

Greaves Travel
33/34 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3PF.

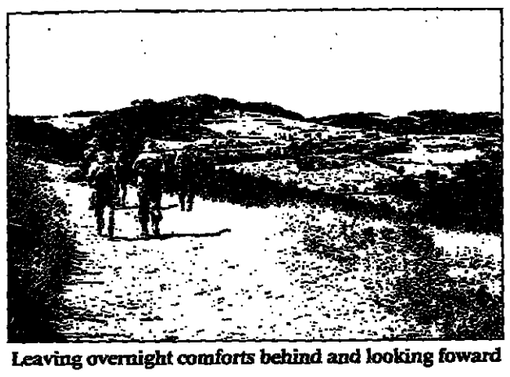
GREAVES TRAVEL

هكذا من الأصل

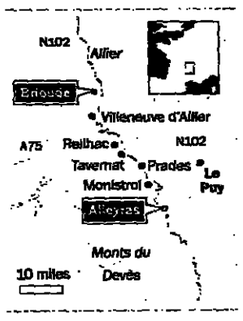
SUMMER SUN 1998: WALKING HOLIDAYS

When the going gets tough, talk cows

For Robin Neillands, the Auvergne had everything



Leaving overnight comforts behind and looking foward



FACT FILE

- Robin Neillands travelled with Belle France Holidays (01797 223777) and Brittany Ferries (0990 360360). Belle France offers self-guided walking and cycling holidays in many parts of France and this six-day walk along the Allier costs from £430 per head, for two people, self-drive, including return ferry crossings, half-board accommodation in Logis de France hotels, luggage transfer, maps and walker's guidebook.
- Brittany Ferries has daily sailings to Caen and Cherbourg, the most convenient French ports for the Auvergne.
- Tips: this is a toughish walk which demands boots or similar, not trainers. Take a compass, lipsalve and sunblock and a stick — useful for deterring the occasional dog.

"Do you think we should be doing this?" my wife asked, looking up from the walking guidebook. "Just listen to the dangers: flash floods, high winds, electrical storms, cattle, dogs, snakes, hornets ... and that's without the heat, the hills and the blisters. It all sounds a bit, well, tough."

Walking in the Auvergne *is* a bit tough, but the 50 miles from Brioude to Alleyras along the valley of the River Allier ranks as one of the great walks of France.

We had splendid walking, ate superbly in small country hotels, shared picnics on hillsides covered in wild flowers and saw parts of France that few visitors ever see. And that was all — six hours a day and hardly another walker, which made it just about perfect.

The Auvergne lies in the Massif Central, the volcanic heart of France, a comfortable two-day drive from the Channel coast and an area most British tourists pass by. The attractions of the Auvergne are the simple, active ones: fishing, canoeing or whitewater rafting, botany and bird-watching, riding and walking. Especially walking, because the Auvergne is seamed with footpaths and well supplied with small villages, each with its small hotel.

Walkers soon discover two things about Auvergne hotels: first, their hotel is always the last house in the village, at least a mile from the centre; second, their bedroom is always on the top floor, a final challenge at the end of a long, hard day.

Our walk down the Allier began in Brioude, a fair-sized town, but we shook off the suburbs in half an hour and had a leg-testing 12 miles down the valley to Villeneuve d'Allier, walking through knee-high clouds of butterflies. We arrived, after seven hours, at Monsieur Besson's Hotel St Verny, which looks across the river to the fortified village of St-Ilpize, which is floodlit by night and the perfect photo-opportunity.

The hotel is comfortable, and M Besson serves delicious Auvergnat food, which is hell on the waistline and cheap at Ffr120 (£12.75) for five courses, and good rhône wine at £8 a bottle.

M Besson also offers his guests evening entertainment with songs of the Auvergne. These supposedly romantic songs are largely about cows, because the Auvergnat rates his cows higher than almost anything else. The Auvergnat, with elbow nailed to the bar and cigarette glued to the lower lip, is always happy to talk to the passing stranger, especially about cows.

Among the requirements for a good walk in the Auvergne is at least a smattering of French, for few people here speak English. It also helps to be fit.

Our second day was another long one: 13 miles over the hills, hard work with the sun beating down. We took our time, had a terrific picnic and a lunchtime doze, diverted off the trail to see the wonderful 14th-century frescoes in the church at St-Cirgues and arrived at the Hotel Val d'Allier in Reilhac, more than ready for a hot shower, a good meal and an early night.

Next morning my wife decided not to walk. This was not a problem, because she got a lift from the tour rep who transports the luggage from hotel to hotel each day. I, meanwhile, trudged on across the hills, a splendid, 12-mile walk to the Hôtel des Sources in the pretty village of St-Julien-des-Chazes.

This day took me through the village of Tavernat, which was full of flowers and largely inhabited by ducks, then across empty, rolling country on GR412, the well-marked long-distance footpath.

I had another of those filling Auvergnat salads for lunch and walked it off in the afternoon before descending to the Hôtel des Sources, where my wife was resting on the terrace and being chatted-up by the owner.

The next day was, I confess, something of a slog. My wife rejoined me on the trail and began to regret the decision when the first two hours were a relentless uphill climb, culminating on a very steep slope recently swept by a landslide. Those who normally restrict their walking to the flatter parts of the Home Counties would find this walk above Prades a little daunting, but the effort was worth it.

At the top we emerged from the woods on to another of those open Auvergne plateaux, with views running away for miles and a small Romanesque pilgrim chapel, endowed with one of the rare 13th-century Black Virgins of the Auvergne, where we flopped on the grass and told each other it was worth it. After that it was downhill all the way.

That day took us nine miles to the little town of Monistrol and the last day a further 11 miles to pretty Allyras, down by the river for a celebratory dinner in the Hôtel de Haut Allier, a short distance from the river, from where a train took us back to Brioude and our car next morning.

And, just for the record, the flash floods, high winds, electrical storms, dogs, snakes and hornets we were warned about never showed up.



TONY STONE

The walking can be tough, but the views repay hard work and there's ample reward at the end of the day

Continued from page 29

Prices, including ferry crossing, half-board accommodation, maps and guide book plus luggage transfers, from £318 for seven nights in the Massif Central in June.

Something different for 1998 is the six-night Wine and Lace walk through the vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône, with prices from £529, via Eurostar and the TGV to the Rhône valley.

HEADWATER
Freepost, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 5BR; 01606 813333
HEADWATER concentrates exclusively on France, with a splendid range of walks suitable for every kind of walker. This included the High Pyrenees Walk, eight days from £359, a Best of Provence Walk at £429, a walk through the Châteaux Country of the Loire, from Chenonceau to Amboise, 11 days from £437, and a Route Napoléon Walk through the Alps (£429 for 11 days, half-board).

These walks are self-guided, self-drive holidays, and prices include return ferry crossing, half-board hotel accommodation and luggage transfer.

EXODUS
9 Weir Road, London, SW12 0LT; 0181-675 5550
THIS company operates all over the world but in particular has some fine walks in Europe this summer, including seven nights exploring Cantabrica and Asturias in Spain from £485, as well as walking weeks in Andalucia, Tuscany, Provence, Madeira, the trek around Mont Blanc (two weeks from £835) and trips in the Tatras mountains of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. Prices from £485 for eight days to £795 for 14 days, including flights, transfers, half-board, guides and luggage transfers.

ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL
68-71 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE; 01865 315678
THE upmarket end of the walkers' world is covered by this company, with a wide range of trips throughout Europe but with a particular emphasis on Italy. Trips include the Tuscan Trail, the Wilds of Sardinia, Unknown Tuscany and Paths to Urbino; themed trips range from the Flowers of the Gargano to Truffles of Umbria. Good destinations, comfortable hotels, lavish picnics and interesting, well-travelled companions are the great lures of these walking trips, which do not come cheap. Fifteen days down the Camino de Santiago in Spain costs £2,295; eight days in the Cévennes £1,125; eight days in the Pindos Mountains of Greece £995. This covers guides, transfers, meals, picnics and wine, but not flights. The company also runs a series of less expensive, self-guided, walking holidays in Spain, Italy and France, all in its Footloose programme at prices from £495 including flights.

WAYMARK
44 Windsor Road, Slough, SL1 2EJ; 01753 516477
CELEBRATING its 25th anniversary this year, Waymark offers straightforward walking holidays to 90 European destinations. Places with a difference include the Douro valley of Portugal, seven days for £545, half-board, guide and a daily walk included; and two destinations in the mountains of Norway: Hallingen, one week for £570, and Geilo, one week for £585. These prices include flights and luggage transfers.

COLIN SHEPHERD



These dogs were made for walking: writer Robin Neillands

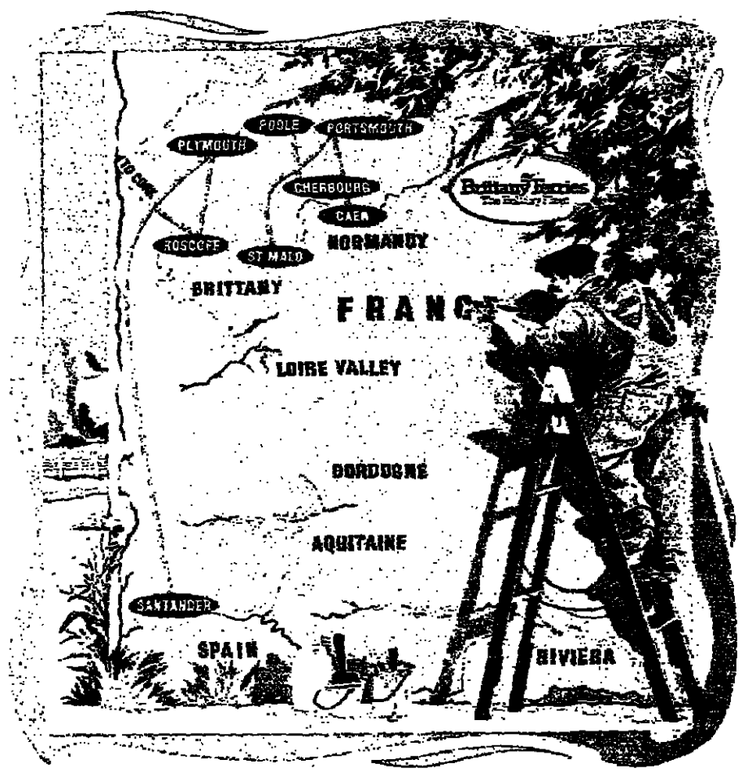
DUENDE TRAVEL
Priory field House, Canon Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1SW; 01823 323363
THIS small company operates about a dozen hikes between May and October to five relatively unexplored areas of Spain. Prices from £775 per person for eight nights in the rugged El Maestrazgo region, £795 for a week in western Asturias, £845 for a week in Castile or eight nights in the Pyrenees, to £895 for eight nights in Andalucia. Prices do not include flights but do take care of accommodation based on two people sharing a room, all meals plus wine, and transfer to and from the airport specified in the itinerary.

- **Other companies offering walking holidays include:** *Winetrails (01306 712111); Inntravel (01653 628811); Walker's France (walking the wine regions, 0171-726 4321), Bents Bicycle & Walking Tours (01568 780800); Explore Worldwide (01252 319448); Freelance Holidays of Crete (01789 297705); Heritage Touring (walking the Cotswolds, 01305 266440); HF Holidays (0181-905 9558); Field Studies Council (01743 850674).*

FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CALL 0171 782 7325

HOLIDAY FRANCE & SPAIN
DIRECT

LUXURY CRUISE-FERRIES
AWARD-WINNING SERVICE
EXCELLENT RESTAURANTS
DIRECT TO BRITTANY, NORMANDY & SPAIN
IDEAL FOR ALL OF HOLIDAY FRANCE & SPAIN
HUGE CHOICE OF HOLIDAYS



Sailing with your car to Holiday France?
Why drive the long way round when you can sail with us, direct to Brittany, Normandy and Spain?
Our luxury cruise-ferries, with their award-winning service and value, land you closer to where you'd like to be, saving you wasted fuel and effort.
And our huge range of self-catering and self-drive holidays and breaks offer you all the finest pleasures of Holiday France and Spain.

Brittany Ferries
The Holiday Fleet

BROCHURES 0990 143 554 RESERVATIONS / INFORMATION 0990 360 360
OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

1998 Brochure range: Ferry Guide • Gite Holidays • Holiday Homes & Hotels • Luxury Camping Holidays • Golf Breaks • Hotel Breaks

هكذا من الاصل

SKI WEEKEND: UTAH



Ski USA

Resort well worth its salt

Graham Duffill visits Utah, home to the next Winter Olympics and "The Greatest Snow on Earth"

At the Alamo bar in Main Street, Park City, opinion around the pool table is that if the site of the Winter Olympics in 2002 has one problem in common with the current venue it could be snow. Too much snow.

The skiing schedule for this winter's games at Nagano in Japan has already been badly buffeted off-course by fierce snowstorms that delayed the downhill. It was all predictable, said the experts, because of the way the mountains catch the weather.

In Utah, storm fronts drift across the deserts and northern plains of America for 600 miles before they hit the Wasatch Range, where they dump an average of 42 feet each winter.

Anyone in the Alamo will also tell you the long passage over dry land makes the snow that falls in Utah so light that a cupful of it melts into a single sip of water. "The Greatest Snow on Earth" it says on state number plates.

Previous Winter Olympic sites — Sarajevo, Lillehammer, Lake Placid and now Nagano itself — have shown that just because a venue is suitable for the Olympics, it is not necessarily a good place for a skiing holiday.

Of venues during the past 30 years, only Innsbruck, Albertville and possibly Banff can be recommended for holiday skiing.

Choosing Salt Lake City for 2002 will firmly put it on the map as one of North America's great skiing destinations, and one until now overlooked by Britons mesmerised by Colorado and Canada.

Salt Lake has six notable ski resorts within an hour's drive of the International Airport, which is a one-stop flight from London.

Park City, which will host the slalom, giant slalom and snowboard events, is 35 minutes away. It is a small ski town that sells its image on 19th-century Main Street, preserved as a decent imitation of the mining town that mushroomed with the discovery of silver in 1872.

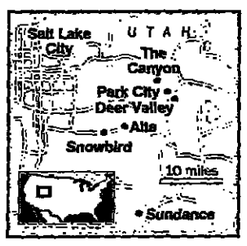
Though small, Park City still sprawls, and you can find yourself in a condominium on the edge of town some distance from the main street or lifts.

Drinking is often the biggest concern of visitors to Utah, the Mormon state, but rules have been relaxed. As long as you are over 21 and happy to quit at 1am, you are unlikely to notice. Smoking is banned in public buildings and restaurants, but that is common throughout the US now.

Bars like the Alamo — pool tables, football machine and obligatory stuffed moose-head on the wall — that do not serve food have to operate as private clubs to get around the liquor laws. You pay a $5 membership for two weeks and can take in five guests, or you buy a beer for the old guy at the bar and he pledges you as his guest.

Park City's skiing is extensive: 14 lifts, 89 runs and a vertical drop of 3,100ft from a summit at 10,000ft. It's fine for beginners, though predominantly intermediate, and there are ungroomed expert bowls accessible from the Jupiter chairlift. But you would not cross the Atlantic just for that.

North and south, so close they are almost attachments, are the upmarket Deer Valley, which still bans snowboarders, and the snowboard-orientated the Canyon, which features five half-pipes, the U-shaped playgrounds where snowboarders exhibit their tricks.



Deer Valley, which will take the aerial events, moguls and freestyle skiing, has ski valets to help you unload your car and a collection of super-luxurious condominiums and expensive hotels such as the Stein Erickson Lodge and Goldener Hirsch.

Though Deer has a new, smart feel about it, the skiing does not cosset the guests in the same way as the resort. Guests are offered a normal lift pass with gentle and intermediate runs, and an expert's pass listing the black and double-black diamond runs.

Its 13 lifts climb three surrounding mountains, offering 67 marked trails and three bowls, with the rough runs mainly down chutes on Bald Mountain (9,400ft).

The antithesis of Deer Valley is Alta, a low-tech Alpine-style resort with back-to-nature skiing. It is a 30-minute drive back down to the main road and down the charmingly named Little Cottonwood Canyon to Alta and Snowbird, which share this cul-de-sac. Neither will feature in the Olympic programme, but the crowd in the Alamo do admit that this is where the real skiers are to be found.

Snowbird has fast lifts, a 3,240ft vertical drop and the longest continuous skiing runs in the state. Forty-five per cent of its runs are graded as expert or advanced terrain.

Most accommodation is in Cliff Lodge, a huge glass and steel structure containing restaurants, shops and 500 hotel rooms. Its style is Sigourney Weaver's spaceship in *Alien* crossed with the purpose-built blocks of the French Alps, and it is for the determined slope-basher only.

Similarly isolated, all life in Alta exists in five separate lodges to which, in times of high avalanche risk, guests can be confined for safety or even summoned in the middle of the night to gather in "safe zones" in the building.

Thirty-five per cent of the slopes are graded advanced, and although there are 39 marked slopes, hundreds of off-piste variations are possible.

One other resort is worth a visit becaue of its celebrity status. Twenty-nine years ago Robert Redford bought a one-chair-lift resort called Timphaven at the base of a 12,000ft mountain and founded Sundance ski resort.

Redford's vision was a resort where "the arts, environment and recreation would flourish in a perfect harmony", but the ski area is a one-day wonder with four lifts and 41 runs.

JUMP TO IT

WOULD-BE *Olympians can try out* adrenalin-pumping events at the Utah Winter Sports park in Bear Valley, four miles north of Park City.

The scariest is ski jumping, for which you need only the most basic skiing skills — and plenty of courage.

The smallest jump is 18 metres: in other words, the skier should ideally fly for 18 metres through the air to land at the ideal point on the slope.

Learning to jump is a gradual progression that begins with sliding on the long skis on the flat piste to practice the run-in, then jumping over a small ramp. On the hill you first ski the landing slope, the out-run, then try a jump from halfway down and gradually climb higher. After the 18 you can work your way up to the 30-metre jump. The 70 and 90 are the serious stuff.

The bobsled course also offers rides, with drivers taking passengers down the course in four-man sleds at up to 80mph. Or you can go solo in the one-man "Rocket Rides", which reach 50mph.

Ten top spots at lunchtime

IT'S almost spring. The sun is strong enough to threaten your chilled apremont as you await your magret de canard au poivre vert and you are gazing across a panorama of mind-numbing splendour. Get up the mountain early, come down late and make time in the middle of the day for a good lunch — that's my formula. Here are ten of my favourite midday halts.
Prices indicate average cost per person of a two-course lunch with a half-bottle of modest wine.

ALPE D'HUEZ, FRANCE
Chalet du Lac Besson, 0033 476 80 65 57
Only a few hundred metres from the mid-station of the main gondola in the middle of the cross-country loops. Service is nothing special — but the food is excellent.
Budget £15-20.

COURCHEVEL, FRANCE
Mont Bel-Air, 0033 479 080093
Distinguished by a combination of satisfying food and that rarest of commodities in France: table service that is both friendly and efficient.
Budget £15-20.

COURMAYEUR, ITALY
Christiania, 0039 165 843725
The main bar-restaurant gets hectic, but below is a calm dining room. The food is superb, including tiny, melt-in-the-mouth pizza-appetizers. Budget £10-15.

DEER VALLEY, UTAH
Stein Eriksen Lodge, 001 435 649 5315
Comfortable retreat, halfway up the mountain at Silver Lake Village. Clump your ski-booted way across the deep-pile carpets to the buffet, one of the most indulgent on-mountain lunches in the skiing universe.
Budget £20-30.

LA GRAVE, FRANCE
Refuge Evariste Chancel, 0033 476 799232
A refuge perched high above the village, halfway down the Chancel itineraire. Call during the morning to discuss what's cooking and place your order. Budget £10-15.

MONTCHAVIN, FRANCE
0033 479 078351
Chez Pat du Sauget, 0033 479 078351
At its best in bad weather — a warm cocoon in which to hole up. The food is hearty stuff, and it's easy to overindulge. Budget £10-15.

SAAS-FEE, SWITZERLAND
Britanniahütte, 0041 27 9572288
The views are splendid and the food simple, both intensified by the effort (you're above 3,000m here) of the short plod across mountainside from the pistes. Budget £10-15.

ST CHRISTOPH, AUSTRIA
Hospiz Alm 0043 5446 3625
With its rustically woody private "booths", the Hospiz Alm may have been designed for the dinner trade, but it also makes an atmospheric lunch spot. Budget £15-20.

SAUZE D'OULX, ITALY
Capricorno, 0039 122 858572
Upmarket Italian clientele accounts for mid-slope presence of this four-star, chalet-style hotel and restaurant. Popular for lunch, whatever the weather. Budget £10-15.

ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND
No other resort has so many mountain restaurants. In the Matterhorn sector I usually hit one of the several places at Furi for lunch, and at teatime work my way homeward via the cosy huts at Blatten and Zum See. Budget £15-20.

CHRIS GILL
SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT



The Hospiz Alm in St Christoph, Austria

Crystal Ski
BIRMINGHAM
LATE AVAILABILITY
AUSTRIA · ITALY · AUSTRIA
£208 BED & BREAKFAST · £227 CAT/HALF BOARD · £255 BED & BREAKFAST
AUSTRIA · SWITZERLAND · AUSTRIA
£318 CAT/HALF BOARD · £357 CAT/HALF BOARD · £299 CAT/HALF BOARD
ITALY · AUSTRIA · ITALY
£219 BED & BREAKFAST · £317 CAT/HALF BOARD · £189 BED & BREAKFAST
0121 767 7000
Call the Airport Booking Hotline
Birmingham International Airport
Above prices for 1 week based on travel, accommodation and B&B in resorts and transfers. ATOL1554. ABTA W2474. IATA. ITO.
ALL BOOKINGS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND TO OUR STANDARD BOOKING CONDITIONS. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.



Silver mine territory

FACT FILE

■ Getting there: All prices are for a week, based on two sharing, and include flights and transfers. Prices applicable late February/early March.

■ Ski The American Dream (0181-552 1201) offers packages including £1,389 at the Alta Lodge (half-board); Snowbird Cliff Lodge (room only), £785; Shadow Ridge Hotel, Park City (r/o) £719; Stein Erikson at Deer Valley, B&B, £1,659. Flights with Northwest Airlines from Gatwick.

■ Crystal (0181-399 5144) offers B&B at the Radisson in Park City for £655 or two-roomed condominiums for £629; Cliff Lodge at Snowbird, £595. Scheduled flights on United, Continental and Northwest.

■ Ski Independence (0990 550555) offers the Landmark Inn in Park City for £739, room only; Olympia Park Condos based on four people sharing for £799. Flights on Northwest and United.

■ Flights to Salt Lake City start at £628.50 with Delta (0800 414767), via Atlanta, travelling in March. Cheaper flights are available through brokers including Flights Direct (0870 7500136). Prices start at £274 with American until March 31.

SPECIAL OFFERS
THE MAGIC OF THE MALDIVES
Imagine escaping to a sun-kissed island, fringed by soft white sand and lapped by the Indian Ocean. Relax in temperatures averaging over eighty degrees, before sinking into crystal blue waters.
KURAMATHI COTTAGE CLUB
7 NTS ROOM & BREAKFAST FROM £799 08 MARCH - 29 MARCH
14 NTS ROOM & BREAKFAST FROM £1099 22 MARCH - 12 APRIL
KUONI
CALL US ON 01306 747000
Office Hrs. Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm, Sun. Open to see your local travel agent
OTHER DATES & ISLANDS AVAILABLE
Price per person on a twin inc.Return flights from Gatwick with Britannia Airways, transfers, 7 nights accommodation with breakfast and U.K. departure tax. Booking conditions apply. Limited availability. Non inclusive Optional insurance £15.95 Total departure tax
Voted "Britain's Best Longhaul Tour Operator" for 16 consecutive years. ABTA V2567 ATOL 132

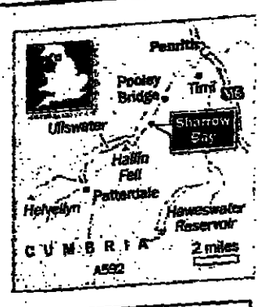
£98 6 days plus
Now you can afford to take the whole squad to France this summer.
le Shuttle
Eurotunnel Calais/Coquelles up to 4 times an hour • Price includes car and all passengers • For information and reservations call 0990 35 35 35 or your local travel agent.
Supersaver bookings must be made 1 day in advance and by the 31st March 1998.

هكذا من الاصل

TONY STONE



Double vision: winter landscape reflected in Ullswater. The Sharrow Bay Hotel was originally built as a private house in the 18th century and is situated halfway along the eastern shores of the lake



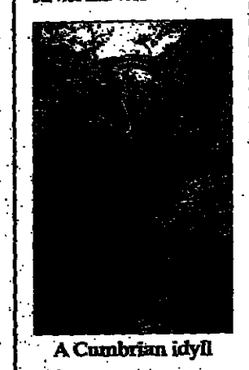
FACT FILE

■ Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel (017684 86301), Lake Ullswater, Pooley Bridge, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2LZ.

■ Open from February 20 until the end of November. The 26 rooms are split between the main hotel, Bank House, the Lodge Gatehouse, the Garden Cottage and Thwaite Cottage in the nearby village of Tirril.

■ Prices start at £115 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast without a private bathroom, rising to £145 with private bathroom.

■ Non-resident prices for morning coffee £3.50, lunch (five courses) £34.25, afternoon tea (scones, jam, cream, cakes, biscuits, toast and tea or coffee) £15.75 and dinner (six courses) £45.25. All prices include service and VAT.



A Cumbrian idyll

And this is the view from Hermione

Christian Dymond has happy — and romantic — memories of Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel, which reopens next week for its 50th season

One summer evening, while I was strolling in the hotel's well kept grounds overlooking Ullswater in Cumbria, I turned to my girlfriend, who was celebrating her birthday, and proposed. Had the setting not been so perfect and the hotel not so comfortable, perhaps her answer might have been different. But she accepted and we have been happily married now for 13 years.

Revisiting Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel, halfway along Ullswater's eastern shore, brought back happy memories of that first visit of ours. We would like to think of it as our own secret hideaway, but its charms are well known. Former guests include Lord Olivier, Sir Alec Guinness, King Hussein of Jordan, J.B. Priestley and John and Norma Major. It was Egon Ronay's Hotel of the Year in 1974 and his Restaurant of the Year in 1980.

The hotel has a flamboyant interior. What strikes you when you enter is not so much the absence of reception — staff will appear from nowhere to greet you — but the farrago of figurines, plates, plants, potpourri, lamps, antique furniture, clocks and paintings that adorn the public rooms downstairs.

Bedrooms — individually decorated in dark greens, burgundy and floral patterns — are hardly less restrained, with porcelain figures, elaborate brass lamps, antique desks and huge beds. Pictures of Lake District landscapes embellish the walls.

The hotel was opened in 1949 by Francis Coulson; Brian Sack, his business partner, joined him in 1952, and they claim to have coined the term "country house hotel".

Its beginnings were not auspicious. Locals thought that Mr Coulson, who spotted the 18th-century house in an advertisement in the *Manchester Guardian*, was quite mad to open a hotel in such a remote area. When he lay down on a mattress on the floor on his first night after buying the property he, too, thought to himself: "Coulson, you're a complete and utter fool. What on earth have you started?"

> He hopes that the rooms have 'a feeling of love'

The view the next morning, however, convinced him of the potential. When you wake up in Hermione, Pinkie or Silver (each room has its own, ever so slightly chi-chi name), you can pull back the curtains and gaze down Ullswater towards Hallin Fell, Helvellyn, Striding Edge and their rugged compatriots, and across the water to the few stone farmhouses scattered on the other shore.

The hotel has been closed for the winter, but reopens on Friday for its 50th season. Over the years, Mr Coulson, Mr Sack (both MBEs and as flamboyant in character as their hotel's decor) and a dedicated staff have turned the hotel, which originally had five rooms and no alcohol licence, into a place whose reputation for comfort, service, fine food and old-world courtesies has spread widely.

Aphrodite and Simplicity, yet more bedrooms, have a partial view of the lake but if you book into the hotel's Bank House, a mile away from the main building, all seven bedrooms have lake views.

Marion is a new room. Named after Mr Coulson's mother, it has been converted from two bedrooms named Princess and Charity. Because it is large and has two windows overlooking Ullswater, it is one of the best appointed rooms in the hotel.

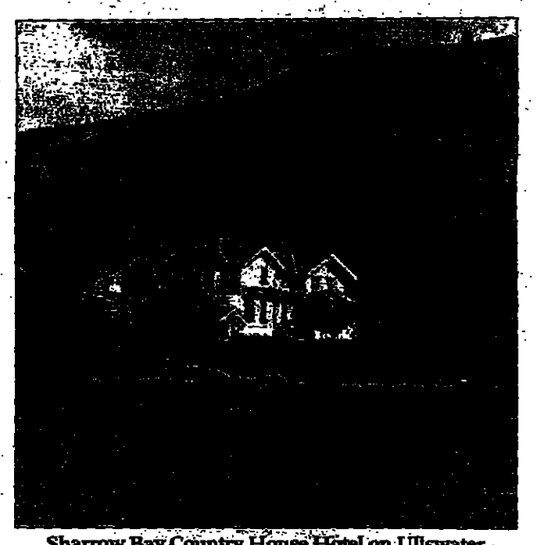
Some might feel it is all a bit twee, but Mr Coulson says that he wanted the rooms to be "homely and friendly with a feeling of love". He gave a booklet to the 53 staff (the maximum number of guests is 49) summarising the hotel philosophy. "We wish to impress upon you the importance of having a joy and love of people, so that your guest passes through the hotel with a feeling of being wanted," it says.

The restaurant is Michelin-starred and helpings are generous. The menu contains a lot of British dishes, but with less of the traditional butter and cream. There are 450 wines. The three senior men in the kitchens have a combined service at Sharrow Bay of 83 years.

Afternoon tea, which established its reputation early in the hotel's history, includes scones, cakes, biscuits, toast and three styles of crust-free sandwiches. It is wise to book in advance. There are no squash courts, gymnasiums, whirlpool baths, saunas or rides in off-road vehicles. "People are always ringing to see if we have them, but I think it's one road we won't be going down," says Nigel Lightburn, one of the younger directors.

There are no children aged under 13, and dogs are banned (after a woman turned up some years ago with a bitch on heat: "every dog in the neighbourhood suddenly wanted to come to Sharrow Bay").

New for 1998 will be an office computer. As yet, this may not affect the card-index system which documents the creature comforts of regular guests. Rest assured: if you favour a particular kind of talcum powder or prefer your sauces to be served separately, Sharrow Bay will be ready to indulge you.



Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel on Ullswater

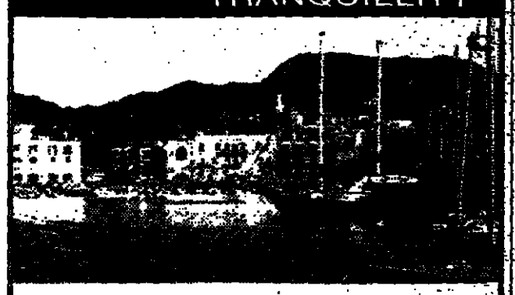
TOURING
America
20 QUALITY ESCORTED TOURS
including:
ONTARIO & FRENCH CANADA
8 Day Tour featuring: Toronto, Niagara Falls, Kingston, Gananoque, Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal
FROM £595
EASTERN USA & NIAGARA
9 Day Tour featuring: New York, Niagara Falls, Penn-Dutch Country, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Annapolis, Washington DC
FROM £659
GOLDEN WEST USA
14 Day Tour featuring: San Francisco, Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite NP, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Scottsdale, San Diego, Los Angeles
FROM £815
NEW ORLEANS+OLD SOUTH
14 Day Tour featuring: New Orleans, Natchez, Memphis and Graceland, Nashville, Savannah and Orlando
FROM £855
CANADIAN ROCKIES
14 Day Tour featuring: Vancouver, Victoria Whistler, Kamloops, Jasper, Banff, Yoho National Park, Kelowna
FROM £1025
ARCHERS PRICES INCLUDE
★ FREE CONNECTING FLIGHTS from regional airports to Heathrow with most North American holidays.
★ LOCAL COACH CONNECTIONS from over 1,000 towns to departure airport for £5 return.
★ ALL AIRPORT TAXES and UK Air Passenger Duty included.
★ Services of a professional tour director/resort representative.
Holidays and offers are subject to availability
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS from North Midlands, Wales, up to 3 UK airports: BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW
BROCHURE ALSO FEATURES
8 Exciting Holidays to Far Away Places, including: Australia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Mexico, Jamaica, The Far East, China, Kenya.
21 Holidays to Europe & The Mediterranean, including: Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Majorca, Malta, Madeira and Morocco.
BOOK DIRECT & SAVE ££s
CALL OUR 24hr BROCHURE LINE 01233 211 100
QUOTE REF E-STI-1402-ALN
OR CUT THE COUPON AND POST TO: ARCHERS, PO Box 170, Ashford, Kent TN24 0ZA
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE TELEPHONE
ABTA 74845
Archers
BOOK DIRECT FOR BETTER VALUE
A member of the COSMOS Group, market leaders in escorted coach tours for over 30 years.

Catch the early Summer Sun in
NORTHERN CYPRUS
LIMITED SPACES
ISTANBUL CITY BREAKS FROM £179.
ESPRI HOTEL from £299
Based on SC for 2 weeks
0181-688 7555 PRESIDENT HOLIDAYS
BROCHURE LINE: 0181-667 1313
The No.1 Specialist
ABTA V6978 ATOL 2483

NORTHERN
Cyprus
There is more to Cyprus than you ever dreamed of. Unspoilt and deserted beaches, serene and tranquil villages, medieval castles, picture postcard harbours and gothic shaped mountains; all at a price that is blissfully affordable.
HOLIDAYS from £299
• Luxury hotels • Self-catering villas
• Twin centre holidays - Istanbul and Northern Cyprus • Scheduled flights
• Free child places • Free car hire
Cyprus PARADISE
For a free colour brochure call:
0181 343 8888
ATOL 2480 689 High Road, London N12 0DA ABTA V5788
NORTH CYPRUS

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE
ABTA
The ABTA symbol on your tour operator's brochure means you can be confident that the descriptions of your travel arrangements have been compiled under the strict guidelines set by us. The same care and attention goes into checking every ABTA travel agent and tour operator's finances. For a leaflet on ABTA call 0171 637 2991.
LOOK BEFORE YOU BOOK
ABTA

Undiscovered
TRANQUILLITY



Little has changed in Kyrenia Harbour over the centuries. Fishermen still doze away the afternoons at their traditional moorings. Locals relax in harbour cafes and chatter about the price of lemons. In fact, about the only thing that stirs in Kyrenia is the thick sweet coffee. If this is the kind of unspoilt tranquillity you'd like to discover then call 0541 555650 for more details.
Undiscovered
KYRENIA NICOSIA FAMAGUSTA
NORTH CYPRUS
A sanctuary of unspoilt beauty
North Cyprus Tourism Centre, 29 Bedford Square, LONDON. Tel: 0171 631 1930

THE SOUTH COAST LOOKS EVEN BETTER FROM THE VERY ARNOLD HOTEL
Did you know that Wallace Arnold owns and runs five superb hotels in Exmouth, Torquay, Sandown, Bournemouth and Eastbourne? All offer the high standards of service you would expect from a company with 70 years' experience to make your holiday quite unforgettable.
INCLUDED IN YOUR HOLIDAY:
• TOTAL LUGGAGE HANDLING SERVICE - FROM OVER 850 LOCAL JOINING POINTS, DIRECT TO YOUR HOTEL ROOM
• A RESERVED SEAT ON A LUXURY NO-SMOKING COACH
• 2 FREE EXCURSIONS
• FRIENDLY, EXPERIENCED DRIVER/COURIERS
• ALL ROOMS WITH PRIVATE FACILITIES
• LIVE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
• DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST AND AFTERNOON TEA
• NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENTS
Wallace Arnold Holidays
We think of everything
CALL 0345 500 065
PLEASE SEND MY FREE WALLACE ARNOLD BROCHURE TO:
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials
Surname
Address
Postcode Tel. No (STD)
PLEASE TICK YOUR CHOICE OF BROCHURE(S)
Britain, Jersey & Ireland Summer '98
Europe (Including over 30 countries) Summer '98
Still available
SEND TO: WALLACE ARNOLD BROCHURE REQUEST, FREEPOST (SAB2335), ASHFORD, TN24 0BR.
TLPD02
Find us on the internet at: http://www.wallacearnold.co.uk

Postcards from the edge

Oliver Bennett meets the man whose front-line dispatches from trouble spots allows readers to live dangerously in their armchairs



REUTERS

A roadblock in Sierra Leone. Trigger-happy soldiers are often interested only in the visitors' cash



Have keyboard, will travel: Robert Young Pelton keeps his dossiers of danger up to date before moving on

Travel, it is assumed, rewards the risk-taker. And one man who has taken this attitude to the extreme is Robert Young Pelton. He is a Canadian who, with two co-authors produces *The World's Most Dangerous Places* — an information-packed account of the world's "war-zones, forbidden areas and criminal regions". The third edition is published this week.

There are some 85 regions mean enough to warrant these descriptions, and the writers visit them personally — places such as Zaire, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Algeria and Chechnya. Crammed with people, politics, derring-dos and derring-don'ts, the book is fascinating, if scary, stuff and guaranteed to raise armchair adrenalin to new heights.

Mr Pelton had the idea of a travel guide to war zones a couple of years ago. He knew he'd have to write it himself: "I couldn't hire a writer at first," he says. "Imagine the ad: 'how would you like to go to dangerous places and be paid a pittance?' " But *DP* has become a cult success, particularly in the United States — its first and second editions sold out without advertising.

Mr Pelton is tall, broad and looks, as they say in the East End, as if he would be quite tasty in a ruck. But he's a writer, not a fighter, and hates that sub-Hemingway *machismo*. "People criticise us and say, 'You think you're such a tough guy'," he says. "I tell them, 'You think I'm tough? I'm surrounded by people who have been fighting wars for over ten years.' " He also has a touch of the Zen master about him: he is calm and relaxed, alert but inscrutable. This opacity must come in handy in dangerous places.

"We're trying to show people where it really is *interesting*," says Mr Pelton, and the book lists "coming attractions," such as Bougainville, the Pacific island contested by Papua New Guinea.

Recently Mr Pelton visited the current Most Dangerous Place, Algeria, travelling on a tourist visa. Next Afghanistan beckons, so that he can hang out with the Taliban.

It is normally easy to get people to talk, he says. "Most of these groups are looking for publicity. In fact, rebel groups like Hezbollah will give you lengthy diatribes." But Mr Pelton's approach is different from a news-gatherer, with a story mapped out. "To travel you can't have prejudice," he says. "I come to them sympathetic and naive, and try to understand the political and social complexities."

Are the people he meets suspicious of him? "Of course," says Mr Pelton, with all the idiot-proof reasonableness this task has lent him. "The first thing is: be very sociable and *ask*. The best conversationalist is the best listener."

But don't push it too far, he warns. "You shouldn't take pictures — there are no pictures allowed of Taliban, for instance. You can *ask* about politics, but don't *tell* them about politics. As for religion, if you want to question them, calmly say, 'Why do you say that?'."

What if you find yourself in a really dangerous situation, such as a Liberian roadblock? "In African hot-spots you see a lot of drunk, unpaid soldiers, and they want your wallet," he smiles. "The secret is to smile, smile, smile and be as dumb as a ghost. Have a sheaf of papers, from your school, from your gran, or whoever. Pull them out. They will be illiterate and hopefully they'll think you're official and get bored."

Mr Pelton reckons he can smell an "electric atmosphere" in the presence of real danger, but says never show fear: "that kills you." And sensitivity, not macho bluster, will keep you alive. "People skills are more important than military skills," he says.

He gets letters from people itching to experience danger, but mostly tries to talk them out of it. "I write back to everybody, and I want to tell them it's not that adventurous, sitting there in a miserable hell-hole. I try to channel them into the Red Cross or the United Nations."

There is a high armchair readership, which he claims includes many women, intellectuals committed to being up to date, and a third group that he identifies as "the Generation X types — young people who think it's cool." Among this crowd he detects the biggest adventure-lust, because of their coddled existences. "They see this book as the ultimate expression of independence," he says.

He resists the temptation to become an ideological Red Adair, used by government and news organisations. "This book encourages an appreciation of the trials and goals of people around the world," he says, in a slightly over-rehearsed volley. "It makes you very humble."

> 'Ask about politics, but don't tell them about politics'

The conflicts divide into religious, tribal, political or drugs-based, and there are currently war-type situations in 22 countries — although, technically, only one or two are actual war zones. "The sad thing is that about a quarter of these could quite easily be solved if we sent people in," he says. "But that seems like colonialism, so we stand back. I don't advocate armed intervention, but there's a need for a global police force." What of the United Nations, then? "Confused, like a writer working for 15 different editors," he says.

He packs light. "One bag. One pair long-johns, one pair boots, one pants, one Leica camera. And money." The latter is separated out and secreted around the body, perhaps taped to the skin, perhaps kept inside the camera body. "Then you have a tourist pouch in a prominent place with useless credit cards and a bit of toy money from the destination."

For all this aggravation, Mr Pelton is rewarded by meetings with remarkable men and (a few) women. "When I went into Afghanistan, I had this fine pulls at a Gore Tex-style anorak) and my guide only wore a blanket. You start to realise what a wussy you are. You meet the most colourful people. They talk like it's 200 years ago, very colourful, florid and formal."

Tourism often co-exists close to the skirmishes. "For instance, tourists are flown into Cambodia, taken to Angkor Wat, and flown back again," he says. I detect a sneer under his moustache when he adds: "They want air-conditioning and a buffet breakfast. Then there's what I call the 'ant trail': back-packers who just go and meet other back-packers." What's wrong with that? "I would say, go and stay in locals' homes." He does not like "the walls" that tourists put up.

As a husband and father of two, is he perhaps putting his own life at risk? "I've been doing it long enough. I come back healthy and tanned, and ten pounds lighter. They understand." For it clearly fascinates him, and as he lopes away, I recall the famous Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times."

● The World's Most Dangerous Places, *by Robert Young Pelton with co-authors Coskun Aral and Wink Dulles, (Fielding, £13.99).*

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ THIS may be paradise on earth: the small Malaysian island of Pangkor Laut is the perfect lovers' hideaway. Destination Far East (0171-336 7788) is offering eight nights' B&B for £889 per person, including limousine and launch transfers, return flights from Heathrow and all taxes, departing every day in February.

■ THE Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612) is offering a six-night Zululand Safari based at the lakeside resort of Kosi Bay. Six nights' camping accommodation and most meals for £325 per person. Flights can also be arranged. Departs on Wednesday, March 4.

■ THE ski season is slipping away but Neilson Ski (0990 994444) still has some availability. Seven nights' B&B accommodation at Niederau, Austria, departing from Manchester on Saturday, February 21, or seven nights' half board in a hotel at Macugnaga, Italy, also departing from Manchester on Sunday, February 22 are both £239 per person. Flight and transfers are included; accommodation will be allocated on arrival.

■ IT'S carnival time again, and Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) has return flights to Rio for £398, including UK departure tax. Flights to Lima, Guayaquil (Ecuador), and São Paulo are also available for the same price and are valid for up to one month. All flights depart daily from Gatwick, Heathrow, Birmingham or Manchester.

■ THE Venice carnival is in full swing until Tuesday, February 24. Liaisons Abroad (0171-376 4020) is offering some classical entertainment amid the mayhem: tickets for the Carnival Concert on Tuesday Feb 17, Saturday Feb 21 and Tuesday Feb 24, which includes music by Vivaldi, and Farina at the Ateneo Veneto are £22 per person, and tickets for the "Violins in Venice", including music by Vivaldi, Bach and Mozart, at the church of San Samuele on Friday, 20, Saturday 21 and Monday February 23, are £24 per person.

■ IF IT'S a bit of blarney you're after, Ryanair (0541 569 569) has up to seven flights a day from Stansted to Dublin. Return flights are from £49 per person, not including departure tax.

■ IT'S Disneyland time again and Bon Voyage (01703 330332) is offering week long breaks at Anaheim, California. Seven nights' accommodation only at the Radisson Maingate, close to the theme park, return flights from Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham and economy car-hire is £449 per person. Up to two children aged between two and 17 can travel for £142 per person. Daily departures.

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday 16 February to Saturday February 21, 1998
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Athens	£135 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£660 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Barcelona	from £98 easyJet (ex-Luton)	from £138 Debonair (ex-Luton)
London – Boston	£165 BA (ex-Heathrow)	£832 BA (ex-Heathrow)
London – Dublin	from £55 CityJet (ex-City Airport)	from £69 CityJet (ex-City Airoprt)
London – Glasgow	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£198 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Manchester – Madrid	£109 Iberia	£608 Iberia
Birmingham – Munich	£97 BA	£546 BA
Glasgow – Paris	£78 BA	£379 BA
London – Venice	£138 BA (ex-Gatwick/Heathrow)	£516 BA (ex-Heathrow)

Airline telephone numbers

British Airways (BA) 0345 222111 — Iberia 0171-830 0011
CityJet 0345 445588 — Maersk Air 0171-333 0066
Debonair 0500 146200 — Transavia 01293 596650
easyJet 0990 292929

Notes
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.
* Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.

Airline crews call for limit on hand-luggage

CABIN CREW attendants are calling for stricter rules governing the number of bags passengers are allowed to carry on flights, *Tom Chesshyre writes.*

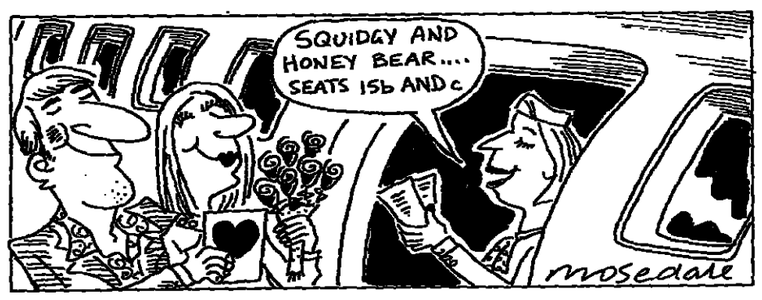
The International Cabin Crew Association (ICCA) says passengers are taking advantage of the fact that airlines are not enforcing hand-luggage allowances, increasing the risk of injury from falling luggage and blocked emergency exits. There are also concerns that the time it takes heavily-loaded passengers to board and be seated is causing flight delays.

The ICCA has launched a campaign this month to persuade the Joint Aviation Authorities of Europe — which has 27 member countries, including Britain — to introduce a tough one-bag rule on all flights.

In Britain, the current limit is set by the Civil Aviation Authority, which simply says airlines must ensure hand luggage can be stowed in lockers or under seats.

Cabin Crew 89, a union representing British flight attendants, backs the ICCA proposals. "The problem is that if a passenger with a lot of luggage has a choice between an airline that enforces a strict carry-on policy and one which does not, it's obvious what the choice will be. So airlines tend to be lenient," said a spokesman.

British Airways recently imposed a unilateral 6kg limit on passengers, but passenger groups believe that a well-enforced, tougher set of rules for all carriers could work. "It would be good to have a straightforward policy," said a spokesman for the Air Transport Users' Council, "But I can understand the frustrations this might cause if people can't carry everything they want as hand luggage and then have to wait for it at the carousel."



V-day celebrations

NO-VACANCY signs are being posted throughout Europe this weekend as record numbers of loving couples escape Britain for a romantic liason abroad, *Steve Keenan writes.*

It is the first Valentine's Day to fall on a Saturday since 1987 and bookings have rocketed as a result, with several citybreak operators reporting they can't find a hotel room for love — or money.

Amsterdam, Barcelona and Bruges are "full," said Christopher Kirker, managing director of Kirker Holidays. Flights to Paris are also sold out, he said.

"For any city to be full on a weekend in February is extraordinary. The hoteliers think the British are stark, raving bonkers."

The company's sales are 400 per cent up on last year. Couples are spending an average £600 per booking, said Mr Kirker.

British Airways Holidays ranks New York as its sixth-most-favoured Valentine destination.

And Cresta Holidays' managing director Steve Kimber said: "On a normal February weekend, we book 3,500 people — this weekend, we are sending 10,000 abroad.

"Amsterdam, Paris and Dublin are full and Rome is pretty much there."

Prague is also popular with romantics. But those who wanted to spend a weekend in Venice have been disappointed — the Venice Carnival is on and rooms are scarce.

Eurostar has received a timely boost, however, with standard class seats to Paris sold out. Adam Kenworthy of Barnes, London and girlfriend Leire Escobar booked Brussels instead, having been quoted £289 each for a front-carriage fare to Paris.

"I probably should have booked earlier — but we shall still have a romantic day out in Brussels," he said."

It is unlikely, however, that many will stop to ponder this weekend the origins of the peculiarly British veneration of St Valentine.

It is a phenomenon that Dublin is looking to capitalise on, the city being host to the remains of the saint in Whitefriars Street church.

Minister of Tourism Dr Jim McDaid this week supported moves to promote Dublin as an international capital of love.

"After all," he said, "some of mythology's greatest love stories are based in Dublin: Tristan and Isolde, and Diarmuid and Grainne. Dublin need not yield second place to Paris or Venice in matters of romance."

CITIES OF LOVE

1	Paris
2	Amsterdam
3	Barcelona
4	Bruges
5	Florence
6	Rome
7	Prague
8	Madrid
9	Lisbon
10	Brussels

Source: Kirker Holidays

£629
Nassau

HAYES and JARVIS

What is Nassau? Miles of white sand? Fish barbeques on the beach? Pulsating night life and colourful markets? Nassau is all of it, the soul of The Bahamas.

Try 7 nights in Nassau at the Nassau Beach Hotel, Cable Beach from only £629 per person. For full details of a whole host of Bahamian Holidays, call Hayes and Jarvis on 0181 222 7833 or see your local travel agent.

Islands of the Bahamas

Includes return BA flight from London Gatwick, subject to availability, booking conditions and airport taxes. Price is based on 2 adults sharing twin/dbl accommodation, return flights and transfers. Available from 09/04/98 - 24/10/98.

CORK & KERRY
BEAT THE CLOCK



SLEEP OVER ARRIVING AT 7am

SAVE OVER 400 MILES OF DRIVING

CAR + 5 ADULTS FROM £75 SINGLE JOURNEY £139 MID WEEK RETURN

For cabin space book early!

SELF CATERING WEEK FROM £39 PER PERSON Based on 6 people sharing £236 PACKAGE PRICE

For ferry passage, holiday brochure and reservations, contact

SWANSEA CORK FERRIES

FREEPHONE 0800 783 8006 or contact your local travel agent

APRIL IN PARIS
& THE COLOURS OF SPRING

with a week-long cruise on the River Seine - 7 nights from £585
including full board and visiting Paris, Vernon, Giverny, Les Andelys, Rouen & Honfleur

The introduction of Eurostar service from Waterloo to Paris has made a visit to this wonderful city even more accessible and without doubt April is one of the best times of the year to visit Paris and Normandy to see the colours of spring.
This week-long journey along the Seine commences with Eurostar to Paris to join the Swiss-managed MS Normandie for the next 7 nights. The vessel was purpose-built for just 160 passengers. All cabins are outward facing, well furnished, air-conditioned, and have en suite facilities and large picture windows. Facilities include a restaurant with excellent cuisine, lounge/bar and viewing deck.
The first day and a half is spent in Paris before cruising the Seine visiting Vernon, Giverny where Monet lived and painted, Chateaux Gaillard at Les Andelys, Rouen with its great Gothic cathedral, the steep cliffs and attractive villages near Caudebec, the Abbey at St Wandrille Jumieges and the most attractive Normandy port of Honfleur, where we disembark and return by road to Paris for the Eurostar service to Waterloo.



DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Saturdays 1998 - per person in a twin bedded cabin
April 4, 11, 18 - £585.00
Single room supplement £250.00

Includes: all transportation, full board, knowledgeable guides. Not included: insurance, sightseeing packages of each place visited including Paris - £125. Note: the cruise itinerary can operate in the reverse sequential order. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG
Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1661 ATOL 2833
Internet http://www.vjv.co.uk

Our offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and at weekends for telephone reservations from 9.30am to 5.30pm. For personal visits our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

A lesson on hunkypunks

IF YOU really want to do something different this summer, spend a week or weekend studying umbellifers (cow parsley), sphagnum (moss found in peat bogs) or even hunkypunks and crocketed pinnacles. The latter are the gargoyles, decorations and stonework on Somerset's churches — and a week spent exploring such treasures in August, based at Taunton Summer School, costs £250 for meals, accommodation and expert guidance.

Other intriguing pursuits, ranging from African drumming and the Amish people to blacksmithing, tarot and tatting are listed in *Time to Learn (summer 1998)*, a directory of educational holidays published by the specialist charity, the National Organisation for Adult Learning.

The courses, aimed at both beginners and experts, take place in 65 centres throughout the UK, and some abroad, with prices from £75 for a week. "They're an ideal way to make friends with mutual interests — most of our holidaymakers come on their own," says Heather Way of West Dean College, which runs 400 rather more conventional courses, ranging from painting for beginners to advanced silversmithing.

Time to Learn costs £4.95 and is available from 0116 2044200.

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw

TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



TO MARK the centenary of Alvar Aalto's birth, Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355) is organising a seven-day tour of the works of the Finnish architect, described by Martin Randall as the "poet of international Modernism". Among the highlights of the trip are the Rautatalo office building in Helsinki, the sanatorium at Paimio and the former teacher's training college, now a university at Jyväskylä. There will also be special visits to lesser-known buildings. The tour, which runs from June 27 to July 3, costs £1,240 for flights, accommodation, most meals, drinks and entrance fees and is escorted by Harry Charrington, curator of the Alvar Aalto exhibition which will be held at the RIBA Heinz Gallery in London from November 5 this year.



ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Alvar Aalto's sanatorium at Paimio is on the centenary tour

Try Morocco

SEVERAL tour operators have tried packages to Morocco in the past but had to pull out after they received unacceptable levels of complaints about harassment from street hustlers peddling "antiques", carpets, jewellery and drugs; many offer to act as tourist guides and become hostile if not accepted.

Panorama (01273 206531) believes that its experience as a Tunisian specialist will help; the company has introduced a programme of Moroccan beach and touring holidays based on Agadir and Marrakesh, using scheduled and charter flights from Gatwick. A week's half-board at the Hotel Tagadirt in Agadir, for example, costs £339-£445 for one week, £419-£579 for two weeks.

Martin Young, the marketing manager, has advice for tourists who are visiting Marrakesh, where the hassling is known to be particularly ferocious. He says it is best to negotiate in advance with a local guide to take you round. A morning's "protection" should cost less than £5.

Tiger tours

TO COINCIDE with this Chinese Year of the Tiger, several travel firms are offering tours with a chance of seeing the beleaguered beast; there are believed to be only 2,500 left in India, where it has been poached for its use in oriental medicine.

Elephant-back forays into the remote Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh are included by Naturetrek (01962 733051) in its escorted 13-day trip in April costing £1,495.

Tailor-made 15-day itineraries (available until April 12) organised by Wildlife Worldwide (0181-667 9158) visit the Ranthambhore and Corbett Tiger Reserves and the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and cost £1,755-£1,855.

Stays with tribal communities and local organisations trying to carve out a future for the tiger are included in two-week tours of India run by conservation-based discoveryinitiatives (0171-229 9881) in April and November, costing £3,105 — a contribution of £250 towards tiger charities is included in this price.

Flights, accommodation and most meals are also included in all prices quoted.



Year of the Tiger: and you might see one on a specialist tiger-watch holiday in India

I'll have a nice glass of retsina

DEMESTICA and retsina are not the only Greek wines, and now Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours (01730 893344) is proving it with an eight-day cruise around the Peloponnese and Aegean islands departing June 26. The boat anchors at Santorini where wine-producing methods date back to the 9th century BC, Monemvasia where Malvasia or "Malmsey" was traded, and at Kefalonia for Gentilini wines. There are also visits to Olympia, Delphi and Epidavros. Prices from £1,799 to £2,299, which include flights, most meals, wine tastings and excursions.

THE YHA has language courses in French, German, Spanish and English (for foreign visitors) at its youth hostel in Canterbury (01227 462911). If you want to hop across the Channel, you can book ferry and hovercraft tickets from the hostel, which also has a bureau de change. A two-hour language session costs £13.50; a five-day course is £60. Hostel accommodation costs £6.55 per night for under-18s, £9.75 for adults. YHA membership costs £5 for under-18s and £20 for families (two parents plus youngsters).

● *Travel articles in* The Times *since January are on our Internet site,* http://www.the-times.co.uk

EASTER AND SPRING BREAKS

THE SPORT & CRAFT MANOR - 01837 53053
MANOR HOUSE & ASHBURY HOTELS, W.DEVON
COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS - Stream trout, carvery, four-poster suites, 9-hole mini-golf.
BROOKE CRAFT CENTRE - Full Tuition - Pottery, Enamelling, Painting, Cookery, Candles, Glass Engraving, Enamelling, Painting, Pottery Painting, Stained Glass, Sketching.
HEATED Pools, Saunas, Squash, Snooker, Sunbeds & FREE Archery, Bowls, Tennis, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Golf Practice & FREE OUTDOOR Bowls, Tennis, Guided Moor Walks & FREE Line Dancing, Sailing, Live Music, Quad Bike +++
GOLF 18 GOLF 18 GOLF 18
FREE GOLF ON 2 X 18 HOLE LONG COURSES + PAR 3
MID MARCH - 4 nights Midweek £127/137; 3 nights w'end £114/123 - DBB
END APRIL - 4 nights Midweek £154/162; 3 nights w'end £140/147 - DBB
MID JUNE - 4 nights Midweek £157/174; 3 nights w'end £139/149 - DBB
END JULY - 4 nights Midweek £211/234; 3 nights w'end £189/201 - FULL BOARD
EXCEPTIONAL SPORT & CRAFT FAMILY PROGRAMME
SUPERB INDOOR BOWLS, BADMINTON, TENNIS, SQUASH

DUNSTON HALL HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB
R.A.C.****
Surrounded by our own Golf Course 4 miles Norwich City Centre, superb indoor leisure centre, large pool, tennis courts, 22 bay driving range. Choice of Restaurants. Golf Weekends. Easter Bank Holiday Specials.
Ipswich Road, Norwich NR14 8PQ
01508 470444 for colour brochure.

ALLT YR YNYS
Country House Hotel & Restaurant
WELSH BORDERS
AA** RAC**
WTB 4 Crowns Highly Commended
Elegant 16th Century hotel in beautiful South Herefordshire. Easily accessible. Award winning restaurant. Indoor heated pool, sauna and jacuzzi. Private clay shooting and river fishing. Golf, walks, riding, stunning scenery.
Perfect for that romantic get away break.
Tel:01873 890307.
Fax:01873 890539

Langdale...
A Winter Warmer
Stay at the Langdale Hotel & Country Club situated in the heart of the Lake District.
A special offer for only £35 pp.pn, B&B midweek throughout February & March 98.
Luxury accommodation & FREE Country Club Membership
Subject to availability of offer.
LANGDALE
Freephone 0500 051197
http://www.langdale.co.uk

UNATTACHED
Fun bank-holiday 1st.May to 4 May with other professional background singles from France, Holland, Germany, Belgium & Northern France
Gentlemen early 30's to 50's
Ladies 29 to 49
CASCADE
Social Group for the UNATTACHED
01495 75 53 09 for brochure
Fax 00 44 1495 75 90 86

CRICKLADE HOTEL
COTSWOLD MANOR HOUSE
Beautifully set in 30 acres. Fine restaurant & accom. Indoor pool + Health suite, Tennis, Snooker.
OWN GOLF COURSE.
From £58.00 pppn incl D.B.B. & use of facilities.
(Minimum 2 nights)
SORRY, NO CHILDREN UNDER 14.
FOR COLOUR BROCHURE
TEL:01793 750751.

SUFFOLK HERITAGE COAST
Wood Hall Hotel, Woodbridge
Come and enjoy the ambience of 16th Century Elizabethan Manor House set in 10 idyllic acres with roaring coal log fires. Candle lit dining, luxurious accommodation & meals, much more.
Where Countryside meets the Sea
2/3 night Winter Warmer Breaks from £55pp inc B&B& sidebreak.
SPECIAL OFFER:
Stay 5 nights only pay for 4
£280pp (Sun-Thurs)
Please note for details & our brochure
ETB High Comm. AA
01394 411283

ARMATHWAITE HALL HOTEL
★★★★
Keswick - Lake District.
C17th former stately home in 400 acres w.lake front. Wood panelled rooms, log fires, leisure club with sw.pool, beauty salon. Equestrian Centre, Trotters & Friends Animal Farm.
3 NIGHT EASTER PACKAGE
From £270 pp, incl DB&B, with family fun & entertainment.
SPRING BREAKS
20% Discount from £76 pppn. DB&B. Children FREE offers.
Excellent conference facilities.
Tel: 017687 76551

Cocoon yourselves in the tranquil atmosphere of this quality Country House Hotel, combining an enchanting blend of complete relaxation, comfort, Modern and Traditional Cuisine, coupled with courteous, caring and unobtrusive service.
Enjoy one of our special Low Season Forest Breaks or Romantic Champagne Weekends, available mid-week or weekends (min 2 nts) whilst appreciating the finer things in life.
PARKHILL HOTEL
Lyndhurst, New Forest
Tel: (01703) 282944
AA★★★ - 79% - 2 Rosettes for fine cuisine
RAC★★★ - 3 Merit Awards

SPRING BREAKS
At Careys Manor Hotel
In the beautiful New Forest
MIDWEEK & WEEKEND BREAKS
SUPERB INDOOR POOL COMPLEX
Stylish Bedrooms overlooking colourful Gardens. The Restaurant is renowned for good food and friendly service.
All bookings subject to terms & conditions
01590 623551
BROCKENHURST HAMPSHIRE
AA ★★★ RAC - Johansens
Egon Ronay Highly Commended

A Winter Oasis at Combe Hall
Near Bath
is more like an old Gothic Victorian House than a Hotel. Delicious food and fine wines, flickering fires in the old chandelier room, or dine by candlelight beside a blazing fire in your own room. Romantic four posters, Victorian bathing stoves & period decor. 4 acres of gardens & stunning woodland walks.
TEL: 01225 810 555

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GOLF HOTELS
£8.99 inc P&P
The only guide to all known hotels in the British Isles, owning their own courses. Tel Orders: 0171 912 1526 or from Harrods, Books Etc, & good shops. ISBN0953069508

EXMOOR
Whitechapel Manor
South Molton, N.Devon, EX36 3BG
AA 2 Red Stars 3 Rosettes
Egon Ronay 76% Which? Hotel Guide
Historic 16th Century Manor House, listed grade 1 with beautiful terraced gardens. Ideally situated to explore Exmoor and the picturesque Devon countryside. RHS Rosemoor nearby. Less than 3 hours from London.
01769 573377

The Most Beautiful Village in the Cotswolds
AA★★★ & 3 Red Rosettes
Enjoy the atmosphere and ambience of this beautiful part 17th Century luxury hotel situated in a breathtaking position and sample the finest cuisine prepared by our award-winning team.
Washbourne Court Hotel
Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire, GL54 2HS
Tel: 01451 822143

Oakley Court
WINDSOR
★★★★Country House Hotel
On the River Thames. Deluxe rooms & suites. Award winning food. Brand new Leisure Club with Pool, Gym, Tennis and Boats.
Special Weekend Rates available up to and including the Easter weekend - from £45pp
Only 10 mins from Legoland and 5 mins from Windsor's new shopping parade
TEL: 01753 609988

Esplanade, Sidmouth, South Devon.
Romantic Break
Charming Regency Hotel at the centre of Sidmouth's delights. Exclusive offering all amenities & excellent Indoor Leisure Facilities.
Special Low Season Rates
2 nts - £57.50 • 3 nts - £96.00 • 4 nts - £124.50
• Sparkling Wine & Chocolates in bedroom on arrival • Candlelit Dinner & Dances (specified nights)
For Full Visit Brochure and Tariff
FREEPHONE: 0800 220714

GUERNSEY
HOTEL JERBOURG
Jerbourg Spring Breaks
March 24th, April 6th
per person per week
Sea Views, HB Option, FREE Golf
☎ 01481 38826
We can even arrange your travel to the island through our holiday agent

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
AA★★★★ RAC
AA Rosette
ETB Highly Commended
Set in beautiful Hampshire, nr New Forest, Winchester & Southampton
MARCH WEEKEND SPECIALS
2nts for just £95pp inc B&B on Friday, DB&B on Saturday with dancing
EASTER BREAKS
fr £50pppnt inc DB&B and Entertainment
• Extensive Leisure Club
• 18 Hole Golf Course
01489 780888

BOURNEMOUTH SEAFRONT
Family run hotel with many bedrooms boasting superb panoramic views across the Bay. Voted "Best Hotel" in the Entertainment and Leisure Awards 1996.
Heated Indoor Pool
Spa Bath & Snooker Room
For further details/brochure
BAY VIEW COURT
01202 294449
ETB ★★★★Inc

INGLEWOOD
HEALTH HYDRO
choose health
choose life
choose Inglewood
Special offers and gift vouchers available
Kintbury Berkshire RG17 9SW
Tel: 01488 682022/685111

GUERNSEY
Hougue du Pommier
AA ★★ RAC
Charming 18th C Country House Hotel set in 10 acres.
Romantic Getaways
£174 pp INC FLIGHTS
01481 56531

DORSET
MORTONS HOUSE HOTEL
Highly Commended
AA★★★★ AA Rosette Award
400 year old Elizabethan Manor in this fairytale village surrounded by the Purbeck Hills and Heritage Coast. 17 charming en-suite bedrooms.
Hibernation Breaks
fr £35pp per night
Telephone for details/brochure
01929 480988
CORFE CASTLE • DORSET
BH20 5EE

NORTHCOTE MANOR
country house hotel
Spring Breaks
A Jacobean Manor, set in woodlands on a site once occupied by monks. Our restaurant features organic meats and home-grown natural produce.
Close to Exmoor, Dartmoor and RHS Rosemoor Garden.
Burrington, Nr Umberleigh, North Devon
01769 560 501

Hotel MIRAMAR
BOURNEMOUTH
★★★
The Country House Hotel overlooking the sea
An enviable reputation for warmth and friendliness the Hotel Miramar is superbly situated with panoramic views over Bournemouth Bay. Boasting wonderful food and charming surroundings, the hotel is within a short distance of the town centre and splendid beaches.
Very special Winter & Spring offers available from £33.50pp DB&B
01202 556581

THE NORFOLK MEAD HOTEL
Coltishall, Norfolk, NR12 7DN
Johansens recommended
Spring Breaks
from £45.00 pppn Half Board
Privately owned, family run, peaceful Georgian Country House Hotel, set in 12 tranquil riverside acres on the Norfolk Broads. Fishing lake, log fires. Renowned restaurant offers an abundance of local produce, with a thoughtful and extensive wine list. All nine bedrooms quite individual and en-suite.
For brochure, menus and tariff call
01603 737531 fax 737523

LOST HITHEL Hotel
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Tel: 01208 873550
This superb Golf & Leisure Hotel is set above the banks of the River Fowey. The perfect base for discovering the South West. Enjoy every comfort including delicious food, golf, swimming, tennis, gym and many other local attractions.
7 nts DB&B & Unlimited Golf £98.50pp

Stay in Luxury at...
Close to Northumberland Coast
Call FREE on 0800 6182626
Heart of Shropshire
Call FREE on 0500 826816
Both hotels boast superb leisure facilities, including indoor heated pool, gym, sauna and beauty salon. Plus special rates for Sunday Times readers for Green Fees on both hotels 18 hole golf courses.
Country Hotels



small, luxurious, wildly romantic country house hotel in 100 acres of deeply wooded gardens teeming with wild life.
ARDANAISEIG HOTEL
by Loch Awe - 20 miles from Oban
★★★★ Highly Commended
For brochure, tariff & details of 'Spring Gold' please call
01866 833333 for details



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COVE IN ENGLAND
Luxury hotel fronting its own beautiful sandy bay entirely surrounded by National Trust Coast.
AWARD WINNING CUISINE
Beautiful ground level bedrooms all opening onto gardens.
35° WARM INDOOR POOL
A children's and country lovers' paradise.
RAC★★★ AA 2 Rosettes for Cuisine
Good Hotel Guide, Egon Ronay
SOAR MILL COVE HOTEL
SALCOMBE, DEVON TQ7 3DS
Tel: 01548 561566

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
If you would like to advertise in the next UK hotel feature
SPRING BREAKS
in March
Please telephone The Travel Team on 0171 481 1989 or send a fax on 0171 782 7824

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

America By Rail

From coast to coast, vibrant cities linked by magnificent scenery. Highlights include New York, Chicago, Denver, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles & San Francisco. Join one of our imaginative tours for the best way to see this vast and diverse country.

Tour Price from £725

Call for your brochure

☎ 01753 681999

Exclusive Tours

National Parks Walking Tours

Join us for a walk through some of America's most breathtaking scenery.

The Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon, Arches & Yosemite are among the highlights on these leisurely tours. A gentle stroll or a more challenging hike, the choice is yours.

12 days from £1,695.

Call for your brochure

☎ 01753 681999

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS

A Award winning 1998 Brochures

- A superb selection of 3, 4 & 5* hotels
- Day flights, ex Gatwick & Heathrow
- Special regional add-ons
- Free Guide Book & Discount Card
- Deals, Children, Singles, Honeymooners
- Early Booking Bonus, extra nights free
- Flexible durations from 3-56 nights
- Price pledge. We will not be beaten

ALGARVE OPORTO
PORTO SANTO
MADEIRA
MOROCCO
GIBRALTAR
TUNISIA
GOZO MALTA
COMINO
BERMUDA
SPAIN
CYPRUS
MAJORCA
JERSEY

VOTED BEST SPECIALIST SHORT HAUL OPERATOR '97 & '98

Reservations Open 8.30am

01703 828515

Brochure Line Open

0990 171819

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

ARABIAN Odyssey - Winter sun, desert safaris, great shopping & golf. Magnificent value-for-money Brochure available. Oman or Dubai/Abu Dhabi. (01242) 224442 ATOL 3997

FLORIDA
SUMMER 1998
FLYDRIVE from £199
HOLIDAYS from £249
0171 407 2111
WEEKLY HOLIDAYS ABTA P6952

CITY BREAKS

Short Breaks to Paris on Eurostar

From £129 inc hotel B&B 3nts

French Travel Service
0171 630 3310
ATOL 1352 ABTA V3175

New Lower Prices

PARIS – Return flight and first night was £122pp, now £102pp, save £20pp.

AMSTERDAM – Return flight and first night was £131pp, now £96pp, save £35pp.

ROME – Return flight and first night was £258pp, now £190pp, save £60pp.

BRUGES – Return flight and first night was £140pp, now £115pp, save £25pp.

BARCELONA – Return flight and first night was £229pp, now £159pp, save £70pp.

Return to UK must be by 31 March 1998

For savings up to £70 per person to over 20 destinations with British Airways - call us now on

0181 741 4443

or visit your travel agent

CITY Escapades

Quote Ref. TG6 ATOL 2378 ABTA V5145

24 HOUR BROCHURE HOTLINE 0990 437 227

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN apartments, hotels, city-breaks, Lakes & Mountains 01329 844405 AITOAITOL

BETWEEN Innsbruck & Salzburg. 3 bdrm, pvt house, hols, sun tent. 01423 860850.

CITY BREAKS

EUROPEAN SPECIALS

FRANCE	ITALY
Paris £75	Milan £115
Disneyland £75	Cote d'Azur £115
Cote d'Azur £115	Florence £115
Carcassonne £115	Rome £115
Geneva £115	Venice £115
Lyon £115	Bologna £115

Many On Routes Call for availability. European Wide Stopover and NOW Financial.

LUXUS TRAVEL LTD. 0171 396 3000 or 01892 563500

CITY BREAKS

Paris or Amsterdam £109
by AIR incl. 2 or 3 nights hotel from £109
01992 456001

Subject to availability. Prices include return flights, all taxes and hotel. Holidays operated by Pacific Travel Services. ABTA V5555X ATOL 2672 and Amsterdam Travel Services. ABTA V6908 ATOL 3956

CITY BREAKS

HOTEL accommodation - Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Madrid etc. 4* to 5* from £29 pppn. All hotels in city centres. 3 nts for 2 nts offers. The Hotel Directory. 0181 770 0123

KIEV Breaks. Independent travel flights. INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

ST PETERSBURGH from £330. INTERCHANGE brochure 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

AIRPORT PARKING

HEATHROW £4.95 per day (no min stay). Free parking after 14 days. Max charge £69.30. (Up to 100 days) Secure Parking Ltd 0181 813 8130

AFRICA

CAPE TOWN S/C Villa. Beautiful setting, sleeps 2-8. Nr Beach & Mountains. 01225 448388

JOHANNESBURG North. Serviced luxury apartments, sleeps 5+, fr £300pw. Tel: 0410 277763

SOUTH African Odyssey. An infinite range of tailor made options including: Garden Route, Cape, Winelands & Game Reserves. Fly-drive May to Sept 98. 30% discount on country house hotels & lodges. TQL Viola ATOL 3997 Tel (01242) 224482

TAILORMADE SAFARIS
ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA, TANZANIA & S. AFRICA

Luxurious remote lodges. Walking, canoeing, riding and vehicle safaris with the very best guides. Superb wildlife. Adventure with comfort. Call us to create your ideal safari.

Tel: (01684) 828979 Fax: 838879
66 Newlands Rd, Malvern Link, Worcs WR14 1BY

AFRICA EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

SYDNEY RTN- scheduled airlines from £533 (April/June) inc taxes from specialists Far East Travel Centre. Also NZ, Brisbane, Cairns and Melbourne with free Far East stop overs. 0171 414 8844 ABTA V2607/ATOL

BALEARICS

CALA D'OR Sanctuary & Porto Petro, Majorca. Beautiful cream-tiyaded villas with private pools, apts & hols. Open 7 days. Club Cala d'Or Holidays 01903 200207 (24 hrs) ABTA Y4424X

MENORCA Attractive villas / farmhouses with private pools, apartments & hotels across the island. Open 7 days. Club Menorca Holidays tel: (01903) 234024 (24hrs) ABTA Y4424X

BALEARICS

BEAUTIFUL 17 cent manor house, Pollensa, 25 acres, sleeps 22, 11 beds, huge pool, tennis, croquet, piano. 0171 937 0727

MALLORCA Lovely & unique bar in front of sea nr sandy bay & pool. Party capacity 2500/ £1,200pw. 0171 828 1062

MENORCA Nr Es Castell. Village setting. Luxury villa, 6 Bedroom, 4 Baths, Slps 10. 10m pool. Car hire. 01737 813051

MENORCA-Binibeca.Seaside villa, 3 beds(slps 6), mln beach. £350-£350pw. 0171 8246743

PUERTO POLLENSA & Cala San Vicente, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts & hols. Open 7 days. Club Pollensa Holidays 01903 230128 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

PUERTO POLLENSA, Private Selection. Quality Apts/Villas. Slps 2-4-6. Tel:0121 4532435

MALLORCA
Porto Petro, Cala D'or.
Beautiful luxury villa. Sleeps 6 or 10.
Owners home. Peaceful, Private, Pool, Jacuzzi, Large Terrace, BBQ Area. Sat. TV. Gym. Golf 15 mins.
Tel/Fax: 01384 823730

CANARIES & MADEIRA

MADEIRA Spac seafront pvt apt, 2 bed, 2 bath, large balcony, pool. £275pcm. 01255 814779

JUST LUXURIOUS lux villas, privacy, vgns hd, secluded pools. Many extras. 01234 843842. www.just-luxuries.demon.co.uk

CORSICA

SUNGALOW + Apt. Pool, Sea view, Nr beach and shops. Travel help. From £250pw. 01424 836666

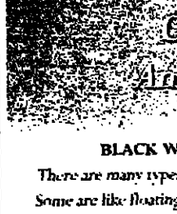
FLY/DRIVE CORSICA. Direct flights from Manchester/Gatwick. Tailor-made holidays to coastal and mountains apartments & hotels. For a brochure ring (01242) 240310. (http://www.vfbooks.co.uk) VFB Holidays Ltd. ATOL 1403.

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

LUXURY Cruises by specialists. Savings/offers on every cruises. Free List. 0161 445 0445

SAIL Greece & Turkey were the skipper of 50' private yacht welcomes guests. For details call 0114 2620451

CRUISING WITH A DIFFERENCE



The Norwegian coastal voyage is a unique blend of cruising holiday, Midnight Sun, breathtaking natural splendour along Norway's coastline and a working ship.

SCANDINAVIAN Travel Service

For a brochure ring:
01443 822 242

DREAM VILLAS
WITH PVT POOLS ON SEA & BEACH SLPS 2-16
CALA D'OR POLLENSA MENORCA
0181 658 4444

CORSICA

Nr CALVI villa by beach, 2 bdrms, ENS. May 24/31, Sept 13/20 & 20/27. call bro. 01245 822116.

VOYAGES ILENA - yes Corsica is wonderful - and we do have the widest choice of private villas, cottages and paradise hotels in lovely scenery. See our magnificent new brochure 0800 783 9025 AITOAITOL

The Corsican Specialist
Corsican Places
Lovely villas with pools, seaside cottages, traditional village houses. Carefully selected homes. Very friendly, personal service.
01424 460046
ATOL 2547 www.corsican.co.uk 07000 corsica AITO

CARIBBEAN

Aaah CURAÇAO Independent Travel. Interchange colour brochure T: 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

ANTIGUA Lux beach villa, pool, car, maid, nurs, fr £1,600pw. Tel/Fax: 0171 930 0835.

BARBADOS Luxury villa, Sandy Lane estate, spectacular, uninterrupted sea views, 4 double bedrooms, pool, full maid service. Available Feb/Mar 98 fr £10,000pw. Apr-Oct fr £7,000pw. Enquiries for further information fax 001 246 422 0021

CAPTIVATING CUBA
Can't dream about it - DO IT!
Tailor-made or all inclusive holidays to 3,4 & 5 star hotel+resorts from £999
Book with Confidence. Book with THE leading specialist
Tel 0181 891 2222

FRANCE

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS 1 of the Island's finest villas at Sandy Lane, St James. Adjoining golf course. Large garden, pool & spectacular views. Cabana on Sandy Lane beach. 4 twin air conditioned suites with bathrooms & 2 further small bedrooms. 3 large reception rooms, patio etc. Excellent staff of 5 including British company owned. 50% net rate available for discount for Easter 1998. Colour brochure. Tel:0181 642 2033. Sheila Francis.

BARBADOS Superb 1 bedroom apartments, poolside bar & rest., West Coast. 01302 530642

DOMINICA Nature lots, beautiful bay front 2 dbl bedroom homes. 01217323629 / 01718426197

CYPRUS

BEACH villa, flat & studio with pools, & cottage nr sea, Paphos & Polemi area. 01435 403527

NORTH CYPRUS. 2 bed bse, ensuite, overlooks of village, 6 mls Kyrenia. Tel: 01732 463575.

WESTERN Cyprus: Villas with private pools in unspoilt villages. For brochures, call Mediterranean Holidays on: 0171 2168000 ABTA V1197 ATOL 1690 AITO

EASTERN EUROPE

SHORT BREAKS to Prague. Packages fr £246 (2 nts). Also fits easily, private apts, excursions & much more from the No 1 Specialist Gadsk Travel 0171 839 4414 ATOL 4311

FAR EAST

HONG KONG package from £795pp. Other low fares and calloroade packages to Far East and Australia on the worlds best Airlines available from Far East Travel Centre 0171 414 8844 Est 35yrs ATOL V2607/ABTA.

FRANCE

ALPINE & Lake Annecy villages lovely apts. Lakes & Mountains Tel: 01329 844405 AITOAITOL

ALPE/ST GERVAIS. 3 bdr. family apts in pte chalet, slps 4-8. Sat TVvideo. 01222 384443

FRANCE

ANNECY Lakeside Chalet/apts with pool. Family activities. Tel 01772 853300 Fax 852311

BRITTANY Slps 12, luxury, superb hol house, beach 300m. tel 24 hrs 0033 479564528

DORDOGNE lovely 18C manor house &/or cottage, priv pool, tennis Tel: 0171 221 0049

BOATING in FRANCE
South of France Camargue, Burgundy, Petite Saône, Seine, Loire, Alsace-Lorraine, Marne-Aisne. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 604
Quote K3081
HOSEASONS

The Best of France
- Top châteaux hotels
- Other exclusive hotels
- Ferry, Shuttle, Fly-drive

Tailor-made holidays
More than 40 years of experience
Unicorn Holidays
01582 83 4400

INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS
FRANCE
800 traditional French homes from £500 (per property) for two weeks self-catering, including sea crossing.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
RING (0990) 143681
QUOTE PEF. F357



BURGUNDY Well furnished village farmhouse. Main services. 12mls Beaune. Slps 6+. From £146pw. 01394 386639

NORMANDY
Gites de France cottages
- Self-catering
- Choice of 120
- Best locations

Normandie Vacances
FREE Brochure
01922 725705

UNSPOILT BURGUNDY
Villas with pools, chateaux and hotels
From £45 per person per week
Plus FREE Overnight Stop En-route
01235 824324 (24hrs)
France

Discovery & Adventure

Discover 12 enchanting French regions on foot or by bike, with your bags moved for you. Warm friendly hotels, fine regional food and wines, unexpected pleasures.

For a totally new kind of French experience, phone now for your 1998 colour brochure.

HEADWATER
01606 813336
ATOL 2412

UK HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

BRITAIN'S best self drive narrow/boat holidays. Widest choice. Resorts, routes & welcome. Tel: 01905 724536.

LAZY DAYS AFLOAT. Award Winning canal boats throughout Britain. Early booking advice. Brochure tel:0121 445 5909.

BOATING in Ireland
SAVE AROUND 20% ON HIRE CHARGES WITH CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES
There has never been a better time to explore the lovely waterways of Ireland's quiet and majestic rivers, canals and loughs. Explore mid-century Ireland's unique culture and cuisine to your heart's content.
Now your FREE 1998 colour brochure
FREEPHONE 0800 163276
or send to IBRA FREEPOST (OF 2442) Wantage OX12 8BR

LAKE DISTRICT

CUMBRIAN COTTAGES. 200 Lakeland cottages. Many Inspected. Mini Breaks available. 01228 599760

LAKE DISTRICT Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. 01756 702208

LAKE DISTRICT Specialists. Choose from over 320 cottages 01455 852505 (LBC205)

THE FOREST in the Lakes, English Country Cottages. Tel:05990 851111. ABF M42522

LANGDALE 3 & 4 bed luxury houses, inc leisure club with pool. 0161 904 9445.

WASDALE a/c cottages in 7 acres. Winter breaks. CH, Slps 2-4 and 5-7. 019467 26235

The LAKES and FELLS of CUMBRIA
Dales Holiday Cottages 01756 799821

LONDON

KENSINGTON Superior Serviced apartments. Tel: 0181 457 3094 Fax: 0181 459 4422.

SAVE Up to 50% on your London hotel bills. Quality hotels. All centrally located, 2* to 5* from £28. 0181 770 0123 The Hotel Directory.

NORTHUMBRIA

AMAZING value Northumbria cottages. New 106 page colour broch. 01756 702232

BLINDWELL FARM Traditional stone a/c holiday cottages. Bellford: 01668 213362

NORTHUMBRIA'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 best ever colour brochure. 01756 702219

NORTHUMBRIA Specialists. Choose from over 150 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC201)

SUPERB Cottages Northumbria, Dales, Lakes, Peaks, Wales. Cottages 01244 345700.

PEAK DISTRICT

NR CHATSWORTH Quality cottages. Slps 2-4. Excellent loc. 01246 591000/0114 2302737

"PEAK COTTAGES" Quality a/c accom. in Derbyshire Dales & Peaks. Brochure 01142 620277

PEAK DISTRICT Specialists. Choose from over 250 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC204)

SCOTLAND

AMAZING value cottages in Scotland. New 106 page colour brochure. 01756 702230

COURTYARD flat, stunning views, 30 acre grounds, golf, fishing, walking, shooting, hillwards, sleeps 4. Only 45 mins Edinburgh. 01259 743881.

FORT WILLIAM 15 miles. Comf secluded loch-side house. Slps 8. Boats for fishing and sailing. From £350 pw. 0131 6570918.

SCOTLAND

LUXURIOUS 18C Restored farmhouse, situated on hillside near Pitlochry. Slps 8. 2 lounges. Steam room and jacuzzi. 2 bath. Fitted kitchen (many gadgets). Stunning views over Loch Tummel. Tel: 0131 3371294 or 0131 6513085.

SCOTLAND'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. Phone Now!! 01756 702213

PERTHSHIRE Loch Tay superbly equipped log chalet - sleeps TV wkends. 10% slps 2 spectacular views, fishing, ideal for hill walking, water sports and tranquility. 01887 830210.

ROSEMOUNT Blairgowrie Newly refurb cottages. Bathing, golf, slps 6, £480pw. 01250 875742.

SCOTLAND Specialists. Choose from over 650 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC202)

SELECTION of self catering cottages, Bluestar Cottages, brochure/ details 01899 308888

SKYE Large lochside bse slps 18-25, every weekend or slps 2-4. Tel/Fax: 01470 521442

ST ANDREWS 25 quality cottages. Slps 2 to 14. Colour Brochure. Phone: 01382 330262.

Country Cottages in Scotland
EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland.
FREE 88 PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE
RING (0990) 851133
QUOTE SM417 (24 Hrs)
OR WRITE: COUNTRY COTTAGES IN SCOTLAND, DEPT. SM417, P.O. BOX 18, EARL SHILTON, LEICESTER LE9 8YZ.



SUSSEX

BRACKNELL HOTEL, Berks. 1600 Tudor Manor, slight hostile 850pp DB&B, 2nd night accom free, yey only £30 for dinner/bed/breakfast. 3* AA & RAC Best Award 91/97. 01424 870262

WALES

BEAUTIFUL quality properties around splendid Welsh coast. Log fires. Linen provided. Pets welcome. Free Call for Colour brochure Quality Cottages 01348 837872

BRECON Beacons. Over 100 a/c cottages some sleep 20. Many less than £250 per slept season. Short brks avail 01874 674444

N PEMBS C 18th city cott. Slps 6, coast/walks, log stove. Fr £180. Col brch. 01239 621292

WALES Specialists. Choose from over 270 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC206)

PEMBROKESHIRE
A superb selection of quality character cottages in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. All properties furnished to the highest standards.
Phone now for free colour brochure
01239-881397 Dept

WALES

Welsh Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in the best areas of Wales.
Free 68 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851122
REF. WM325 (24Hrs)

WILTSHIRE

LUXURY cottage in village, no children, ½ tester bed, log fire, all inc. Tel: 01380 870764.

17th C beamed cottage midway Bath/Salisbury, comfortable and fully equipped, open fire, gdn. Slps 5. 0171 2358913.

YORKSHIRE

AMAZING value Yks Dales cottages. New 106 page colour broch. 01756 702231

COTTAGES Yorkshire including York. Highly acclaimed Full Colbrochs. 01845 597630.

SUPERB Cottages York Dales, Northumbria, Lakes, Peaks. Sykes Cottages 01244 345700.

N.YORKS. Kilburn. 12thC Ian Hamlet Country Rd £29pp, DB&B £39pp. ETB 3 crowns. Pets welcome. 01347 868560

YORK City Centre. Nov-March £20pp B&b £30pp DB&B. Supplement for singles/races. All facilities. Car park. Abbots Mews Hotel 01904 634866.

YORK Lux 1 bed flat, river views, slps 2+, city centre, parking. Avail to Easter. 01904 400084.

YORKSHIRE Dales Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. 01756 702209

YORKSHIRE Specialists. Choose from over 380 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC211)

SCOTLAND

Treat yourself to Shetland

A paradise for birdwatchers, nature lovers, photographers and adventurers, Shetland has its own unique history, culture and lifestyle for a memorable holiday experience.

For information contact, us on Tel: 0990 168200

Shetland Islands Tourism
(Dept ST)
PO BOX 90 SANDBANK PA23 8RL
www.shetland-tourism.co.uk

Romantic Weekend Breaks
THROUGHOUT JANUARY & FEBRUARY
In two of Scotland's individual hotels both with AA Award Winning Restaurants.
Jan £39.50pp/pn includes Candlelit Dinner B&B
Feb £49.50pp/pn includes Candlelit Dinner, Bubbly & Chocs in Room
+ Night Supplement £15 per couple.
Come and be pampered by our staff whilst enjoying superb food and fine wines.
For Further Details and Reservations
The Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan 01786 832284
Norwood Hall Hotel, Aberdeen 01224 868951

5 STAR EDINBURGH
***** AT *****
FRINGE PRICES
£300 PER COUPLE buys 2 nights of weekend luxury in the heart of one of Europe's most beautiful capitals. Including full Scottish breakfast plus dinner with wine on one night in the hotel's stylish Terrace Restaurant. The offer* closes on 31st March 1998. So book now by dialling freephone 0800 35 35 35 quoting SURE V.

* SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Sheraton Grand HOTEL EDINBURGH
The Sheraton

ISLE OF MAN

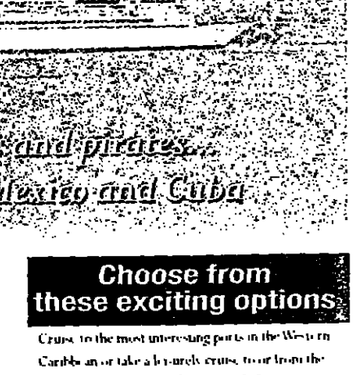
ISLE of MAN
Wide choice of hotels, guesthouses and apartments
Early booking offers - Local departures - Short Breaks
Children travel from just £59 - Day Trips at £99
Prices from £129
For a brochure call Premier Holidays on
01787 884031
Premier Holidays
ATOL 2713 ABTA W7762

Enjoy a superb 4 day break visiting

Monet's Garden & the Châteaux of Paris

from only £149

Take a stroll around the oriental-style floral gardens which became the subject of many of the most famous works of the Master Impressionist.



All this included

Join us as we take a short drive to what many consider to be the most impressive Château in France, the Château De Vaux-Le-Vicomte, with its stunning gardens. We also explore the quaint streets of the medieval town of Provins with its towers and fortifications, and visit the Château and Gardens of Versailles, the home of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette.

Great Value

You can join us at any one of our FREE local departure points in England and Wales and enjoy many wonderful excursions, all included in the holiday price.

At such good value, why not treat yourself this year?

CALL NOW 01709 839 839
WEEKDAYS 8.30am - 7.30pm • SATURDAYS: 9.00am - 5.00pm • SUNDAYS: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Leger (ABTA V3662) or clip and return the coupon LEGER HOLIDAYS, CANKLOW MEADOWS, ROTHERHAM S60 2XR.

PLEASE RUSH ME DETAILS OF YOUR MONET'S GARDEN HOLIDAY
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
Please tick if you do not wish to receive mail from carefully selected third parties.
TG/MG 142

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

3 Caribbean cruises

Special offers



Cruise the history of Incas, Aztecs and pirates...
Antigua, Jamaica, Tortola, Belize, Mexico and Cuba

BLACK WATCH

There are many types of cruise today. Some are like floating shopping malls, others awash with families and noisy children. Some are stiff and starchy, others brash and glitzy or a sea of foreign languages.

On Black Watch things are different.

Time-honoured standards of personal courtesy and attentive service reflect our pride in 150 years of maritime tradition.

To suit our almost exclusively British clientele the language aboard is English and the currency sterling. Accommodating up to 811 guests, virtually all in elegant outside cabins, Black Watch is a modest size by today's standards.

A size which encourages the warm and intimate ambience which makes for holidays filled with new found friends. Yet she's as impressive as she is beautiful, with sweeping lines, broad, teak decks, spacious rooms and a wealth of modern cruising amenities, from swimming pools to sparkling entertainment, from sports, health centre, leisure pastimes and superbly appointed library to sophisticated night club.

Combine all this with exciting itineraries, and the exceptional value and you have here an unbeatable choice of holidays.

1 WESTERN CARIBBEAN MEXICO AND CUBA
FLY/CRUISE - 10 APRIL
ANTIGUA TO NASSAU
12 nights from £995 per person

One of the highlights of this remarkable cruise will be two nights in Havana. Black Watch is the only cruise ship sailing from the UK to visit Cuba in 1998.

The itineraries also include some of the most romantic and mysterious island countries in the world. Fly out and join us in Antigua famous for the fame of its visitors. There are visits to Tortola then to the oldest city in the New World - Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. There are visits to Jamaica and Belize before stopping at Playa del Carmen on the Yucatan Peninsular in Mexico. It's an opportunity to visit the pyramids of Chichen Itza built by the Mayan Indians, or, in complete contrast, the modern coastal resort of Cancun. Then to colourful Cuba with reminders both of decadent American days and revolution, of Hemmingway and Castro.

We cruise on to the beautiful Bahamas and the Capital, Nassau, from where you'll fly back to London Gatwick.

Departing London Gatwick 10 April

10 April -	London Gatwick to St John's ANTIGUA
11 April -	Road Town TORTOLA
12 April -	Santo Domingo DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
14 April -	Ocho Rios JAMAICA
16 April -	Belize City BELIZE
17 April -	Playa del Carmen MEXICO
18/20 April -	Havana CUBA
21 April -	Nassau BAHAMAS to London Gatwick

Choose from these exciting options

Cruise to the most interesting ports in the West Indies and Caribbean or take a longer cruise, to or from the Caribbean. With prices from just £345 per person you can afford to add a stay in the islands which we'd be happy to arrange.

2 Dover to Antigua
13 nights departing 29 March
returning London Gatwick 11 April
From £545 per person.

Escape the damp drizzles of Britain, relax and enjoy the high life on Black Watch as we sail for St John's, Antigua, calling at Funchal on Madeira, the Portuguese Island they call the floating garden.

	per person
Inside twin bedded cabin	£545
Outside twin bedded cabin	£695
Superior outside twin bedded cabin	£795
Guaranteed junior suite	£995
3rd or 4th person sharing	£425

3 Nassau to Dover
13 nights departing 20 April
flying out from London Gatwick
From £645 per person.

Fly to the warm tropical waters of the Carribean. Your cruise includes a night at the Nassau Marriott Hotel and a day in Hamilton Bermuda.

	per person
Inside twin bedded cabin	£645
Outside twin bedded cabin	£795
Superior outside twin bedded cabin	£895
Guaranteed junior suite	£1,095
3rd or 4th person sharing	£475

To book one of these special value cruises or for more information
Telephone 01473 292222
Mon-Fri 9.00-5.30 Sat 9.00-5.00
or contact your preferred travel agent

ATOL 944

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines ABTA V3510

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Fred. Olsen House, White House Road, Ipswich IP1 5LL. Tel 01473 292 222 Fax 01473 292 345 http://www.gbnet.co.uk/fred.olsen

هكذا من الاصل

CHECK-IN

Avoid copycats

Fly the real thing!

01582 700056

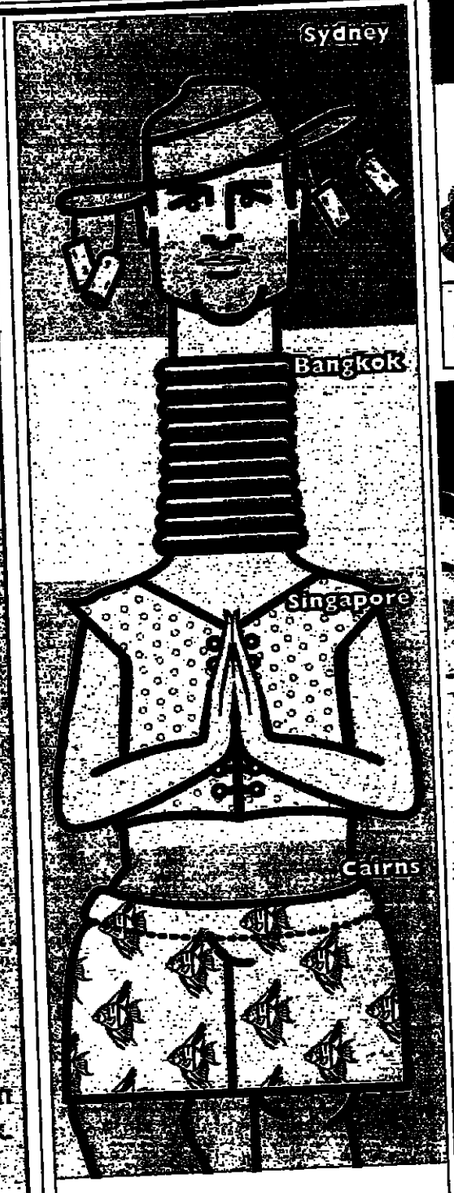
London Luton to	
Geneva	from £39*
Palma de Mallorca	from £39*
Nice	from £59
Barcelona	from £59
Amsterdam	from £39
Aberdeen	from £44
Inverness	from £44
Edinburgh	from £39
Glasgow	from £39
Liverpool to	
Amsterdam	from £42*
Nice	from £59

*Fare only available for travel Tues/Wed/Thurs until 28/2/98.

All fares single and include an unfair £10 Government Tax. Prices subject to availability.

01582 700 056

easyJet



Qantas introduces the Spring Saver Ticket, £749*

E.g. London - Bangkok - Sydney - Cairns - Singapore - London

This Spring you can fly to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane or Cairns for only £679, with a stop in Asia there and back. For an additional £70, you can fly on to two extra destinations within Australia. Fly out on Qantas or British Airways between 16th April and 30th June. Offer closes 30th April.

*Includes all passenger taxes on this route. All fares subject to availability. Cancellation charges apply.

TRAILFINDERS

QANTAS THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

Phone **0171 938 3366**

FRANCE

COTE D'AZUR Nr Valbonne (slips 14). Spectacular spacious villa. Superb 2½ acre garden. Large pool. Beach 20 miles. From £2,600pw. 01189 402430

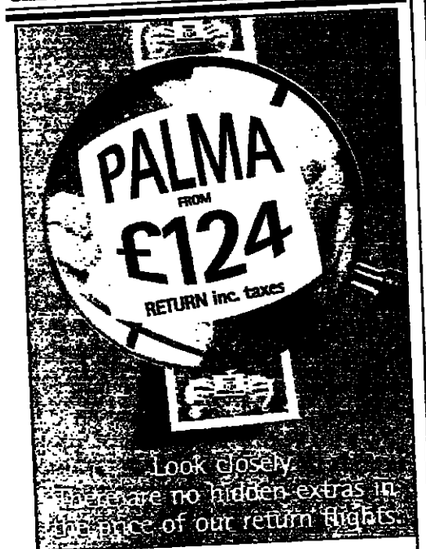
IDYLLIC WATERMILL. Central France, own river swimming, slps 8-10. 0181 9402395.

ST TROPEZ 4 miles, villa for 4, double garage, shared pools. £475 pw. Tel: 01732 451634.

Villas Cottages & Farmhouses
The finest selection in France
FREE colour brochure
01455 852 235
QUOTING DRF408
Country Cottages in France

EuroSites
Continental Campsite Holidays
from £99
for up to 6 people for 1 week*
0990 134 748
quoting ref: CEP_0379
or fill in your coupon below

CHECK-IN



AMSTERDAM	from £79 rtn	EDINBURGH*	from £69 rtn
BELFAST*	from £69 rtn	FRANKFURT	from £139 rtn
BERGEN	from £205 rtn	GLASGOW*	from £69 rtn
BRUSSELS	from £79 rtn	NICE	from £125 rtn
COLOGNE	from £105 rtn	OSLO	from £160 rtn
COPENHAGEN	from £127 rtn	PARIS	from £69 rtn
DRESDEN	from £219 rtn	PRAGUE	from £195 rtn
DUBLIN	from £79 rtn	ZURICH	from £130 rtn

Return flight prices from London Heathrow, including taxes. Other fares are also available from East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Teesside, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin.

Book by 28th February 1998.
Travel must be completed by 2nd April 1998.
Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554

or book on the Internet http://www.iflybritishmidland.com

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Prices quoted available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Taxes must include a Saturday night stay. Flight prices include UK and foreign levied taxes (exchange rates may vary). *14 days advance booking required for Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow at advertised price levels. Calls are recorded.



Call 0141 226 2121
0181 680 2121
8-8 Mon-Fri, 9-5 Sat

ABTA INSURANCE

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Travel as many times as you like
from £99.95 a year

With our annual travel insurance you can take an unlimited number of trips. To enrol, call between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference TIA04.

Insurance Services

0800 700 737

Available to non-Cardmembers

No need to compromise

Certain exclusions and limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Limited is an independent intermediary approved by the AIB Code of Conduct. American Express Services Europe Limited, Registered Office: Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5RZ. Registered Number 1403109

FRANCE

CHARENTE MARITIME Glos, 2 beds, between Saintes and Royan. All comforts. Tel: 0033 546944889.

PROVENCE nr Grasse. Spectacular secluded villa (slips 8). Immaculate grnds. Hot pool. Stunning views. £900-£2,400pw. Open all year. 01189 402630.

CHARENTE/Dordogne (Chalais). Newly furnished fully equipped properties available all dates in pretty market town. Sleep 3/8, 4/6 and 8/10. Approx 1 hr Bordeaux and coast. All inc rentals from £150-£800 per week. Tel/Fax 0181 771 6269 or 0033 5 4598 4427.

Allez France
Villas & Cottages
• FREE en route hotel
• Coast & country
• Many with pools
BROCHURE FREEPHONE
0500 303130
Quote BF98-T
ATOL 1465 ABTA A1704

PEACEFUL PROVENCE
from just £45
per villa per week
Villas with pools, chateaux and hotels
Plus FREE Overnight Stop Enroute
For your FREE colour brochure, or personal quote call us on
01235 824324 (24hrs)
France

FRANCE

GITE HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE



Exclusively Gites de France with a choice of over 1,200 country cottages, converted farmhouses, apartments and much much more in the best regions of Holiday France!

FROM £189 PER WEEK THAT'S FOR 4 PEOPLE!

Brittany Ferries Holidays

BROCHURES 0990 143 537 RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION 0990 360 360

A NEW WAY TO ENJOY HOLIDAY FRANCE

BOOK DIRECT WITH THE OWNERS AND SAVE

Privately owned properties throughout France: Cottages, Villas, Apartments and Châteaux. PLUS special savings on ferry travel.

For your colour brochure call: 0990 143 551

French HOLIDAY HOMES TO RENT



LOOK!

Luxury Camping & Mobile Home Holidays in Europe. 12 Night Family Holidays at Whitsun from £334*.

KEYCAMP Holidays

0181 395 8565 24hr

*Depart 21-30 May. 2 adults and up to 4 children, ferry inclusive, insurance extra.

ABTA V5644 ATOL

COTTAGES Character properties in rural France — SELF CATERING — Brochure Line 01242 240 310 — VFB Holidays Ltd. (CT) Cheltenham GL50 3FB http://www.vfbhols.co.uk

FRANCE ACTIVE Activities for all in the French Alps — SELF CATERING OR HOTELS — Brochure Line 01242 240 310 — VFB Holidays Ltd. (CT) Cheltenham GL50 3FB http://www.vfbhols.co.uk

FRANCE A LA CARTE Hand-picked character hotels — TOURING SKIING SELF-DRIVE FLY-DRIVE — Brochure Line 01242 240 310 — VFB Holidays Ltd. (CT) Cheltenham GL50 3FB http://www.vfbhols.co.uk

THOMSON CityBreaks

Get away for Le Weekend.

2 nights in Paris from just £99*

See the Thomson City Breaks Winter Sale Brochure or call 0171 200 8407

Price is per person for 2 adults sharing a 1* hotel, 2 nights, 27 Feb - 13 Mar flying from Gatwick. Holidays and offers subject to availability. Excludes insurance. Thomson Tour Operations Ltd. ATOL 2524 ABTA V5126.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

World Offers.

Flight prices from:

Paris £75 rtn

Rome £145 rtn

Venice £155 rtn

TAXES INCLUDED

For thousands of World Offers call us now on:

0345 222111

Book by 18th February '98

WORLD OFFERS BRITISH AIRWAYS The world's favourite airline

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods. Travel up to end March '98. Includes pre-paid taxes correct at 14 January '98. Rome – fare £129/tax £16, Venice – fare £139/tax £16. Paris – fare £58/tax £17. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

FRANCE

DORDOGNE Nr Bergerac. Beautiful restored house, private pool, sleeps 6, nr golf from £600pw. Tel: 01932 827077

S.W. FRANCE
VILLAS & COTTAGES
many with pools.
Enjoy fine beaches and beautiful countryside.
FRANCOPHILE HOLIDAYS
BROCHURE TEL 24hr
01594 31869

DORDOGNE Lge gite, poly heat in (6x12). Cth, fr walls, fireplace, 3 or + beds, sl 9. Apr 18-May 16 from £350pw. 01502 574492.

FRANCE
A superior choice of traditional French holiday properties.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
RING (0990) 143681
QUOTE REF: F298
VACANCES EN CAMPAGNE

Super Sites
Mobile Homes
-Top Coastal Sites
-W. Coast & Med
-Low Prices
PHONE FREE FOR BROCHURE ON
0500 404140
Quote SS98-T
ATOL 3033 ABTA A1704

DORDOGNE. A selection of over 50 quality holiday rental properties. For our colour brochure call 01962 713535 or fax 01962 713536 or write to Interhome SA, 383 Kingsgate Road, Winchester SO23 9QG. Tel/Fax 0033 5 53 03 51 53 - email: simplyperigord@alfin-com.fr. English owned & staffed.

DISCOVERING the Finesse of Atlantic Coast. Charming hunting lodge, secluded grounds, separate rooms. Sea, 5 courses dinner, wine & coffee all £70-85pppw. Tel/Fax 0033 556 98 82 25 English Owners

DORDOGNE Nr Sarlat. Stunning views, house for 2. Marvellous views, terrace & swimming pool. Also chalet for 6/8. 01273 738971.

GASCONY Attractive secluded farmhouse, spectacular views, 14km Toulouse, pool, slps 7. From £280pw. 01264 860271.

GERMAIN Charming village house with roof terrace, 2/3 easy reach St Tropez and good beaches. 01235 554205

LANGUEDOC Spectacular views from lovely Catalan style house nestling in the foothills of the Pyrenees, 40 miles from Med. Close to Spanish/French border. Slps 4/6. £260/£320 per week. Tel: 0171 609 4456.

MEDITERRANEAN PYRENEES Self-catering mountain & coastal properties, luxury villa pools. Breathtaking countryside. Tel: 0171 284 2295 or www.countryconnection.co.uk Country Counties Abroad Ltd.

GREECE

CRETE, Skinias, Skopelos. Personalised villa holidays. Tel 01689 877988 ATOL 2679

GREC/PELE/CEPHALONIA Escape. Traditional Hols created for you. Windmill, houses 2-14 pers, hols & tours. Mainland and unusual isles. Atol Also 01422 375999

MAINLAND GREECE-ZAGORIA: 44 stone-built, traditional village houses. Mountain, river, waterfalls - 101 flavours everywhere. Stay in award winning 'Retsina' hotel, Hydrotherapy, walking/trekking, pottery, painting and remember Thessaloniki. Brochure tel: 01580 765000. ABTA, ATO, ATOL.

ITHAKA. Well appointed, purpose built house 2/6+ 4/6. 2 shower rooms, stunning views. Fully loc. 0121 445 5330/01274 877084

LEFKADA - ever inspiring Ionian Island. We are a small operator, offering only the highest quality, exclusive accomodation. From luxury villas with pool to waterfront apartments. Two Travel Industry Awards In 1997. Brochure tel: 01580 765000. ABTA ATO ATOL.

MAINLAND GREECE - is really magnificent, lovely beaches, mountains, forests to explore. A wide choice of comfortable private villas, cottages and hotels in our magnificent new brochure. Voyages Jules 0800 783 9035 Atol/Aosl

SKYROS Studios, hotel rooms and flight seats to this beautiful island. For brochures, call Skyros Holidays on 0171 2168000 ABTA V1197 ATOL 1690 ATO

PAXOS, CORFU Skiathos, Skopelos, Syros. Cottages/villas in quiet, unspoilt locations inc. sea. Travel a la Carte 01635 201140 ATO, ATOL.

SAMIAKI unspoilt idyllic village in remote bay. Aptsfull mod cons. Tel: 01816427471, email 106491460@compuserve.com

SECRET Greek island retreats for those who seek a more luxurious escape from the crowds. Greek Islands Club's new Private Collection. Tel: 01932 220477 ABTA ATO ATOL.

THE TIMES recommends Pure Crete, breathtaking views & empty beaches. Pure Crete 0181 760 0879 ATOL ATO.

Greek Options
A quality selection of Villas and Apartments. We have over 15 years experience in offering holidays for the discerning traveller.
Skopos, Zakynthos, Paxos, Kefalonia, Paxos, Lefkas & Crete
For your 1998 Brochure
0171 233 5233

Simply Ionian
Paxos, Corfu, Lefkas, Meganisi, Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zakynthos
Quintessentially Greek holidays away from the mainstream.
Private villas with pools, hotels and cottages in beautiful unspoilt locations by the sea and inland.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 ATO

Simply Crete
Escape the mainstream and experience an island of stunning landscapes and warm hospitality.
Country cottages, villas with pools, quality apartments and family-run hotels in unspoilt locations. Plus flexible 'Wandering'-holidays.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 ATO

Which UNSPOILT GREEK ISLAND
Choose from 10 lesser known, quieter, traditional islands where the pace of life is little changed
HALKI KALYMNOS LEROS
SPETSES SYMI ALONISSOS
LIPSI SKOPELOS TILOS
Small Hotels, Studios, Apartments, Villas and Traditional Houses.
IT'S ALL IN OUR AMAZINGLY HONEST AWARD WINNING BROCHURE
01629 824 881
LASKARINA
ATOL 2478 Holidays
The Specialist Tour Operator to Greece

ITALY

ROMANTIC Medieval Tuscany. B/B charm'g old villa. Big rm, valley views, pool, tennis, cycles, castles, st resorts, wine, food. Near coast. Good food, org vgn. £35pppw. T/F 0039 187427022

SARDINIA with Voyages Jules an island of stunning beaches and magnificent scenery. Our easy-management new brochure has a different new brochure has a wide choice of private villas, inc. hotels simple & de luxe too. 0800 783 9025 Atol/Aosl

TUSCAN COAST, Monte Argentario, almost an island. House with magnificent views of the sea on cliffside beaches. 90 miles, 2½ hr of Rome. 0181 787 9919 Fax: 0181 747 8243.

TUSCANY/Elba, Mythic island, sea cove, beautiful apt, 6 miles sea, slp 2-7, £296-£950pw. Also Chianti, small vineyards, pool £320-£480pw. 15 miles Florence. Julie 01843 866286

Sicily
Italy's best kept secret
Hotels & flights at most attractive prices
Colour brochure from your Travel Agent or
FREEfone : 0800 181374
Reservations : 0181 788 2866
BELLEAIR HOLIDAYS
ATOL 889

CAREFREE ITALY
Country Villas & Apartments
Charming Intimate Hotels
City Apartments
01293 552277
ABTA V0777 ATOL 3495

SIMPLY Tuscany Umbria
Traditional country villa-apartments with pool, charming hilltop hotels and flexible fly-drive holidays.
'Grand Touring' and Painting holidays plus short breaks to Florence, Venice and Rome.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 ATO

Idyllic Italy
Cities, Countryside & Coast
- the complete selection.
Private villas, castles, farmhouses, Agriturismo apartments and hotels.
Free brochure
BRIDGEWATERS IDYLLIC ITALY
ABTA V6211
0161 707 8795
24 HOURS

ITALY
Traditional farmhouses, villas and apartments in Italy's prettiest regions.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
RING (0990) 143683
QUOTE 1234
VACANZE IN ITALIA

Charming Villas in Tuscany
From £99 Per week
Why pay more?
For FREE Brochure, see a travel agent or call 01235 824324 24 hrs
CRYSTAL ITALY

EASTERN EUROPE

POLAND
10 Day Holiday with Half Board £129
To Zakopane in the beautiful Tatra Mountains
New Millennium Holidays
Brochure: 0121 711 3269

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD



Don't hit the accelerator. Hit the Zzzs in our air-conditioned, en suite cabins and suite relaxation. From £288 up to 4 in a car. Call our brochureline. Ref 78573.

0990 333 666 SCANDINAVIAN SEAWAYS

USA & CANADA

Québec
North America with a certain Je ne sais quoi



LESS THAN 7 HOURS AWAY, Québec is the natural Canadian holiday choice for those who love everything from night life to wildlife - all year round.

So, whether you're dining à la carte or exploring off the beaten track, you'll always find something to suit your personal taste.

Montréal and Québec City, with their many historic buildings, museums, galleries, elegant restaurants, café society and festivals, perfectly embody the famous Québecois 'joie de vivre'.

Indoor pursuits include fabulous shopping and, as far as the outdoors are concerned, Québec's mountains, lakes and parks offer a variety of activity holiday experiences - from whitewater rafting to mountain biking and from whale watching to hot-air ballooning. Don't forget winter sports, which range from dog sledding to skiing. What's more, Air Canada operates more non-stop flights between the UK and Québec than any other carrier. With all this - and more than $2 Canadian to the pound - why wait any longer?

AIR CANADA
Québec CANADA

CANADA
Discover our true Nature.

هكذا من الاجل

FRANCE

Disneyland® Paris with the magic touch

3 NIGHTS FOR 2

Kids Go* FREE

The widest choice of affordable, quality hotels. Free places for kids from January to March* Three nights for the price of two offers. Plus the freedom to travel when and how you please. You'll enjoy a more magical Disney break with Cresta!

For your free brochure, call **0990 56 18 14** or see your travel agent

1998 The Year of Disney Classics

TD198

CRESTA

PORTUGAL

AB FAB Algarve Private Villas/Apts with pools. Look no further. 0181 502 9367

AFFORD VALE DO LOBO. Owners Club. Lux villa, pool, maid. Low prices. 01752 261383

ALGARVE Carvoeiro-Villa with sat TV. Pools, gdns & tennis on complex. Nr beach & golf. Slps 4/6. Brochure 01276 474384

ALGARVE 1/2 bed apts in pt villa, pool, rent fr. £135pw. Broch. 01223 510768/01656 650699

ALGARVE Privately owned villa (pool), + apt. July/Aug availability. 01252 733020.

AMAZING views. V lge mag Hill top villa. 4 ens, twins (slp 10). Superb gdn, T court. Pool. Quiet. Tel: 01786 840159

AUGUST villa private pool Lagos slps 8. Sea views. Sat T.V. Maid. £1375 wkly. 0181 204 4553.

COMPASS in Portugal Selection of privately owned villas with pools, some with tennis courts. Full colour brochure phone: 01908 618202 (24hrs)

NORTHEASTERN mountains Well appointed lux apt in remote mountain village, spectacular views. (3 bedrms +4 poster bed with ensuite). 0171 538 1083.

VALE DO LOBO pretty seafront 3 bedrm villa, o'looking Rotunda Pool. Maid. Golf. 0171 600 6810. W/end 01737 813799.

VALE do Lobo. Private luxury villa, sleeps 6, pool, garden, maid. Tel: 01494 762034

ALGARVE CARVOEIRO
Private group of owners with luxury 3, 4, and 5 bedroom villas all set in their own gardens, with private pools, maid, BBQ and close to beach and town of Carvoeiro. Also 2 bedroom town houses with shared pool avail. from £340.00 p.w.
0181 325 8335
For Villa details and photographs

PORTUGAL, MADEIRA & THE AZORES
BOOK DIRECT & SAVE £100's!
Low Budget & Luxury Holidays
Hotels, Villas, Apts, Manors, Pousadas, Fly Drives, Coach Tours & Douro Cruises. (Packages, Flights on Acc. only)
NEW direct flights Manchester - Oporto/Lisbon

SPAIN

ANDALUCIA 3 bed, 3 bath house, 15 minutes from Mojacar. Spectacular views over golf course and mountains. £200 - £450pw. 01462 742610.

ANDALUCIA farm house, cottages and beach hse. Quiet wonderful scenery. 01892 668090.

ANDALUCIA Trad house, mountain village 10 mls sea, all mod cons. £100/£220pw. 0181 668 6611.

CALAHONDA Nr Marbella. Lux Hse, 3 lge beds, 2½ baths, lge priv gdn, pool cls to all amens 0161 4324901/0468 403558

CATALAN Farmhouse, attractive rural hamlet nr sea, L'Escala. Slps 4. Broch. 01932 855779

COSTA BRAVA Luxury villa overlooking Aigua Blava Bay. Own pool, slps 8, Sky TV, Library, daily maid service, brochure. Tel: 01504 766563.

COSTA BLANCA, Moraira, 4-14 beds, stunning sea view, pool, garden. Beach 400m, shops 200m. Broch: 0034 6649 7181

COSTA DEL SOL Seafront penthse 3 beds, huge terrace, a/con, pool, Puerto Banus 10 mins £400-£850 pw. 01625 861433.

COSTA BLANCA Private Villa, Pool, Gdn, Slps 8. Avail May-Aug. Details 01932 245196.

SPANISH COLLECTION
Andalucia, Castilla La Mancha
Distinctive and exceptional country properties with private pools in wonderful rural locations and in exclusive Sotogrande.
01403 259788(24hrs)
ILIOS TRAVEL Ltd
AITO ATOL 1452

INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS SPAIN
Traditional country houses, villas and apartments many with pools in rural Spain & Portugal.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682
QUOTE ES155

SIMPLY Spain
Escape the mainstream with our unique range of rural farmhouses, country villas with pools and exquisite small hotels in unspoilt locations throughout Andalucia and Mallorca. Plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays and tailor-made options.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

SPAIN

DENIA/JAVEA villa, own pool, fab views, 4 d/beds, 3 baths, tennis, riding, 18 hole champ golf. 01564 742559

JAVEA next to Montgo, Costa Blanca, apartment, 2 double bedrooms, pool, excellent gardens. Tel: 01895 832072

LA HERRADURA Pretty villa, 3 db, rms, sleeps 6/7. Pool, bbq. Beautiful gdns & Views. £300-400pw. Tel: 01903 714695.

LA MANGA CLUB. Half price golf. Luxury villa and pool. Attractive prices. 01752 261383.

LOS MONTEROS, Marbella. Lux det 4 bed, 4 bath villa on 1 level, own pool and gdn, nr beach club. 0181 367 5588

LUXURY Spanish Villas with private pools, Costa Blanca. Save hundreds of pounds by going direct to suppliers to the industry. Ph 01984 641003

NIJAS luxury home, 3 double beds/bath, Pool. Magnificent views. 5 mins walk to village. Summer only. 00 3452 485014

SIERRA NEVADA Cottage slps 2/4 in unspoilt white village. Fr £120pw. Tel: 0181 749 7672.

MORAIRA C. Blanca. Lux villa. 4 dbl bdr, 3 bths, lng, din rm, patio, s/pool, kit, appliances. Sat. Avail. now. 0171 937 3951.

NERJA Oasis village, beautiful settings all year round. Andalucian styled 2 bed villa for hire. From £149-299wk 01634 377177 (Broch avail).

SOTOGRANDE 15 mins Gibraltar Airport. River house sleeps 6/7, 2 baths, 1 shower. Near golf, tennis, beach clubs. £400-£800pw. Tel: 01865 516171

SOTOGRANDE 3 bed, 2 bath balcony flat, hill view, pool £240/550pw 01737 243663.

SWITZERLAND

SUPERB apartments, tours & hotels. Lakes & Mountains 01329 844405 AITO/ATOL

SPECIAL INTEREST

SKYROS The Holistic Experience. In Greece and the Caribbean. Tel: 0171 284 3065 or www.skyros.com/

TENNIS Holidays in the sun at The Jonathan Markson Algarve Tennis Centre. Beautiful location. All ages & standards. Also special weeks in Marrakech. 0171-460 0600 (24 hrs)

WALKING and Cycling in unspoilt France. Friendly handpicked hotels, fine regional food, excellent value-for-money prices. Call Headwater (01606) 813352 for your 1998 brochure. AITO 2412 ATOL.

DIVE!
Experience the exotic world beneath the waves
Our extensive collection of worldwide dive holidays is for beginners & experts alike. Learn to Dive in the clear warm waters of the Red Sea. Dive the shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon, the beautiful coral gardens of Manado and many places in between.
Red Sea from £244
Manado form £720
Call for info & your brochure
01753 681999
Explorers Tours

OKAVANGO TOURS & SAFARIS
Simply the best for tailored holidays in:
BOTSWANA
ZAMBIA & MALAWI
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA & ZIMBABWE
SOUTH AFRICA
TANZANIA
Tel: 0181 343 3283
Fax: 0181 343 3287
See our website: http://www.okavango.com
Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2TJ
ATOL No.1032

Small group holidays off the beaten track...
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA ASIA EUROPE FAR EAST AMERICAS
01420 541007
TRAVELBAG
Adventures

WINTER SPORTS

AVAILABLE NOW 3 Valleys. 2 new chalets (sleeps 12-13) 1 mile from ski lift St Martin De Belleville. Full en-suite facilities, large lounges & balconies. Sunny with beautiful views over mountainside, car parking available. Essex Enterprise 01277 823681.

CHATEL Private Luxury Chalet. Sleeps 10+, S/C, rent, Satellite, Sauna, Logfire. 01565634286.

FULLY catered Ski Chalets Portes du Soleil, France. Great deals available 01884 35576.

LATE OFFERS to over 80 resorts by air/car. Also w/ends & tailor made hols. Freedom Holidays 01798 342034 ABTA 97006.

LES ARCS S/C apts in beautiful chalet, slp 2/10. 0181 455 1897/00 33 479041538.

LES ARCS 1800. Slps 5. W/e: 7/2 £350. 14/2 £400. 28/2 £300. 7/3 £300. 01277 223267

MEGEVE Excellent double family apart. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths very close Pistes. T:0151 6321924

BURGUNDY wine area, superb farmhse apts for 2, peace, pool, tennis. Tel: 01442 875788

CALIFORNIA Mammoth Mtn, house slps 10, best location, fab skiing. Tel: 0181 7889487.

CATERED Chalets with Ski Total - The friendliest company around! St. Anton, Lech, Zermatt, Meribel, Les Gets, Les Contamines & Whistler. 0181 948 3535. ATOL ABTA.

CATERED Chalets Meribel, Argentiere, Portes du Soleil. Doorstep Skiing, en suites, log fires. Snowline 0181 870 4807

CHALETS in Courchevel & Valmorel close to lifts & pistes, sleep 4-10 self catering or catered. Some Feb & March dates 0191 2145880

SPECIAL INTEREST

TENNIS Golf Bowls and leisure holidays in Spain, Algarve, USA, Caribbean. Sports & Leisure Holidays Ltd 01794 500500 TTA R4022

Cycling & Walking Holidays
Leisurely tours through beautiful Bavaria & the Black Forest. Hand picked hotels. Bicycles provided. Luggage transported.
Brochure from: Bents Bicycle & Walking Tours (ST)
The Blue Cross, Orleton, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4HN
AITO 01568 780 800

Experience the Unexpected
Discover the unique experience of a small group adventure!
• *Wildlife Safaris* • *Trekking Expeditions*
• *Sailing Adventures* • *Jungle Exploration*
• *Cultural Touring* • *Wilderness Experience*
For our 100 page colour brochure call
01252 344161
Please quote Reference SAT
Explore Worldwide Aldershot, GU11 1LQ. www.explore.co.uk AITO/ATOL 2595
EXPLORE worldwide

SOME BOOKS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE. THIS ONE CAN CHANGE EVERYBODY'S.
To find out how you can join an Earthwatch team providing funds and assistance on over 130 environmental and cultural projects world-wide, get the Earthwatch Institute Expedition Guide. Call 01865 311 600 with your credit card or send a cheque for £3.50, made payable to Earthwatch, to **EARTHWATCH FREEPOST OF157, OXFORD OX2 6BR.**
EARTHWATCH INSTITUTE
Registered Charity No. 327012
FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

TURKEY

YESIL EV Conservation area by sea. Trad. English run s/c cottages slp 4-6. 01296 336451

TURKEY '98
away from the crowds, closer to the country
• Idyllic coastal villages
• Gulet Cruising
• Villas with pools
• Cappadocia & Mount Nemrut
• Two Centre & Tailor-made Holidays
Easter/Spring Breaks available
DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS
01452 501978

SIMPLY Turkey
Escape the mainstream with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with private pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible 'Wandering' programme, special interest holidays, gulet cruising and Istanbul city breaks.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA
Escorted Groups & Bespoke Tours
0181 747 8315
Or
0161 832 1441

WINTER SPORTS

skifreedom USA
Ski U.V. and the kids go free
Enjoy a family skiing trip to the USA any time during February and one child, aged 11 or under, flies absolutely free when you book and pay for another.
* Colorado, California, Utah and Wyoming.
* 7 & 14 night packages and tailor-made options.
* Free UK connecting flights with British Midland.
To book see your travel agent or call us on
0181 313 0999
Brochure hotline 01235 824 482
UNITED VACATIONS
UNITED AIRLINES
ABTA 45429 Offer subject to conditions. ATOL 2567

THE BEST SKI VALUE IN FRANCE
Now you can book Pierre & Vacances quality apartments across the French Alps through Erna Low
RESERVATIONS: 0171 584 2841
BROCHURE: 0171 584 7820
PIERRE & VACANCES
Erna Low
www.ernalow.co.uk.
No.1 in Ski-Drive to France

MORZINE Luxury catered chalet, en suite rooms, next to Piste, available 7th-14th March due to cancellation. 01664 68902.

PORTES DU SOLEIL Ski this fabulous region from Les Gets in France. Catered apartment holidays. Tel: 01245 400684.

SAMOENS Grand Massif, B&B or H/B in Auberge, opp telecabin & pistes. tel: 01344 893737

SIMPLY SKI - a superlative range of chalets in Val d'Isere, Courchevel, Meribel, La Plagne, Verbier and St. Anton. Excellent childcare facilities plus special offers on selected dates. Please call 0181 742 2541. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO.

SKI DRIVE - abundant snow in French Alps, cosy auberge, view www.hotelcamelia.com Tel: 01329 664020 F: 450 224325

SKI DRIVE - Ski Trek. Top value holidays to 30 French resorts. Easter availability. Tel: 01788 890049 TTA TG 746.

ST GERVAIS / Megeve. 3 lux family apts in pte chalet, slps 4-8. Sat TV/video. 01222 384441

VAL D'ISERE, St Foy. Apts, Chalets. Doorstep skiing. Tel: 01773 853300 Fax:853317.

Don't pay too much for your travel insurance
Europe - 8 days SKI £22
0171-375 0011
COLUMBUS

FRENCH ALPS
Chalet for 6/8 people £130pp 7 days
Traditional alpine village of La Clusaz. Easy access from road, rail or air. Friendly relaxed atmosphere.
For a brochure & a chat: 01202-765 995
Evenings: 00 33 45 00 25 839

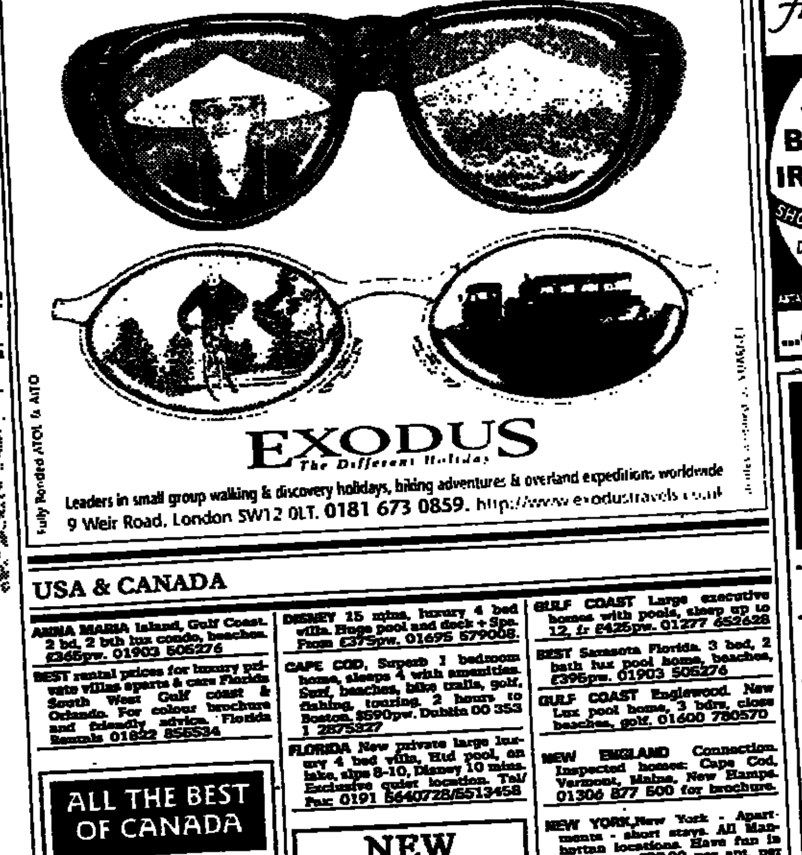
ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

ACTIVITY Hols for Families, Couples, Singles & Groups. Acorn Activities 01432 830083.

HORSE Drawn Caravan Holidays, Learn to Ride, Trail Rides & Pony Trekking. Call Acorn Activities 01432 830083.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Puts other holidays in the shade



EXODUS The Different Holiday
Leaders in small group walking & discovery holidays, biking adventures & overland expeditions worldwide
9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT. 0181 673 0859. http://www.exodustravels.co.uk
Fully Bonded ATOL & AITO

U.K. HOLIDAYS

THE Best of both worlds. All the luxury of a five star hotel but the freedom of your own country cottage at Wye Lea Country Manor, Herefordshire. Deluxe properties (sleeping two to six) in beautiful parkland location where facilities include indoor pool, spa, steam room, solarium, fitness centre, snooker, tennis & outdoor games with childrens play areas. Bar / restaurant & private salmon fishing. Col broch 01989 562880.

BLAKES Cottages
The key to your perfect holiday. Huge choice of cottages, farmhouses and holiday parks.
FREE colour brochure
01455 85 25 45
Quoting code DRB620

HELPFUL HOLIDAYS
for West Country self - catering
Huge variety of over 450 cottages, houses, even a lion
All cosily described & star rated
Colour brochure
01647 433535

LODGES & HOLIDAY PARKS
Britain's widest choice. Lodges in quiet locations - or holiday parks with indoor pools and plenty to do. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 601
Quote H1863
HOSEASONS

English Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice of quality holiday cottages in England's loveliest areas. Free 436 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851111
QUOTE EM765 (24 Hrs)
ENGLISH COUNTRY COTTAGES, P.O. BOX 18, EARL SHILTON, LEICESTER LE9 8ZY.

Jetset Freedom Breaks
SEE More OF BRITAIN & IRELAND
SHORT BREAKS & LONGER STAYS
Do what you like, where you like, when you like. See your local Jetset travel agent
...call 08706 090909

IT'S THE ONLY Brochure YOU'LL NEED
• Widest choice - Over 4,000 cottages to choose from throughout Britain
• 1000's of 1995 prices held. Holidays from £85 per week and £60 per Short Break per property
• Pets welcome at most cottages
CALL TODAY FOR YOUR 576 PAGE BROCHURE
Country Holidays
Quoting Code DRC207
01455 852 505

U.K. HOLIDAYS

HIDEAWAYS
COUNTRY & COASTAL COTTAGES OF CHARACTER AND DISTINCTION
West Country, Wessex, the Heart of England and the South East.
FREE Colour Brochure
01747 828000

Recommended COTTAGES Low deposits
First Choice For Over 600 Dream Cottages Throughout The UK!
01751 47 55 47
1st Choice

classic cottages
Just for the discerning
Free brochure featuring 350 selected West Country cottages
01326 565555

Pets Welcome
HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES
Pets welcome - hundreds of cottages in superb walking country. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 603
Quote C4604

SHORT BREAKS
0345 585 707
LOCAL CALL RATE, 24 HOURS
THISTLE HOTELS

HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES
Hand-picked cottages throughout Britain. Coastal and countryside. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 603
Quote C4602

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

MURDER Mystery Wknds, Cider & wine tasting, Medieval banquets, Stag & Hen Wknds. Acorn Activities 01432 830083.

PAINTING & Pottery holidays, gourmet cooking, crafts, photography, decorative interiors, woodwork and garden design weekends. Call Acorn Activities 01432 830083.

SUFFOLK Cycle Breaks. Quality holidays with full backup. W/e or longer Broch:01449 721555

WALKING & Cycling Holidays, Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling Weekends. Acorn Activities 01432 830083.

WHEELY WONDERFUL Cycling & Walking holidays, Shropshire. Brochure. 01568 770755

WATERSPORTS BEACH CLUBS
11 beautiful locations in Greece and Turkey, all with pools, great food and accomodation, free dinghy sailing, windsurfing, yachting, waterskiing, tennis and volleyball available at most clubs. From just £317pp 1 week flights inc. Call Sunsail on 01705 222 222 (24 hrs).

fun Activity Holidays for 6-18 year olds
For FREE colour brochure FREECALL 0500 749147
www.pgl.co.uk

CORNWALL & DEVON

ACCLAIMED cottages on both coasts of Cornwall & Scilly. Cornish Traditional Cottages. Brochure: 0990 134967. 7 day personal service 9 am - 9 pm

BEAUTIFULLY converted, 3 dble bedroom, 2 bath det stone barn, situated in delightful secluded valley, on edge of Exmoor, ½ hour M5. Tel: 01398 341374

AMAZING value quality cottages across Devon. New 106 page colour broch. 01756 702227

BEST selection of Tourist Board inspected holiday cottages on North Devon's National Trust coastline and Exmoor. Marsdens Cottage Holidays 01271 813777 (24 hrs)

CHARMING Cottages, apts, houses, Devon/Dorset border, Coast/Country. Col Broch. Milkbere Seaton:01297 22925

CONSTANTINE BAY. Family home overlooking golf course & sea, slps 10. Tel: 01428 723851

U.K. HOLIDAYS

Welcome COTTAGE HOLIDAYS
AT OVER 1200 LOCATIONS
PRICES PER PROPERTY PER WEEK

Scotland	from £107	Norfolk/Suffolk	from £114
Northumberland	from £142	West Country	from £117
Yorkshire Dales	from £109		
Lake District	from £115		
Peak District	from £136		
Wales	from £107		
Cotswolds	from £107	Ireland inc. ferry	from £209

PETS GO FREE
DISCOUNTS FOR 2 PERSONS
FUEL, LINEN, ETC INCLUDED
01756 702200
168 PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE
Lines open 8am-9pm Sun.-Fri. 9am-7pm Sat.

CORNWALL & DEVON

CLASSIC Cottages. Over 350 select cottages in the West Country. Just for the discerning. Brochure 01326 565555

COASTAL, Moorland & Waterside properties in delightful settings incl Manor Houses, thatched cottages & romantic retreats for two. West Country Cottages. 01626 333678

CORNISH RIVIERA. The Daphne Du Maurier festival of arts and literature. 8-17 May. For info & prog of events 01726 74324

CORNISH Country Cottages in heart of Countryside, nr sea. Available now. 01503 220333

CORNWALL Specialists. Choose from over 350 cottages. 01456 852505 (LRC205)

CORNWALL & DEVON. 300 cottages throughout. Reasonable prices. Tel 01752 260711

CORNWALL Cottages around Mullion Cove & the Lizard Peninsular. Tel:01326 240315

COVERACK Cornwall, Sea front cottages, breathtaking sea views. 01736 850649.

COVERACK Cornwall, Sea front cottages, breathtaking sea views. 01736 850649.

DEVON Specialists. Choose from over 430 cottages. 01455 852505 (LRC208)

DEVON'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. Phone now!! 01756 702203

EXMOOR V. lge 17c country house (slps 21) perfect groups, w/e hols. 01643 841388.

FOWEY AREA Prestigious properties with harbourside or sea views. Brochure 01726 814263

FREE Colour guide to the 500 best value cottages in Devon (01271) 376322.

LUXURY waterside 3 bed hse, Falmouth, on exclusive marina development, all mod cons. 5 mins walk beaches, shops, restaurants. Tel: 01326 312848

MOUSEHOLE family holiday cottage, slps 6, well equipped, centre of village. 01327 842528.

PORT ISAAC Fishermans cottage o/looks harbour slps 5, pking £225/410pw. 01208 880355.

ROCK Cornwall 5 star prime beachfront 3 dble, 3 bath. 01208 862976

SALCOMBE Estuary. Lovely spacious Victorian famhse. Slps 12. Lge safe gdn.01548 561064

SLPS 12 superb granite frm hse, Sth C/wall, refurb 96, pure lux, antiques, log fires, acre, from £400pw, pets ok, col brochure. 01736 797995.

THE FINEST in Cornwall. English Country Cottages. Tel:0990 851111. REF EM2520.

Cornish COTTAGE HOLIDAYS
BROCHURE 01326 564992
ENQUIRIES 01326 573808
Experience a cottage or farmhouse situated in beautiful rural, coastal and country locations. Superior selection. ETB Registered.

HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES
Hand-picked cottages throughout Devon. Coastal and countryside. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 603
Quote C4603

COTSWOLDS

ABSOLUTE comfort, highly commended country cottages. Winchcombe (01242) 602390

BEAUTIFUL 2 Bed Annex of Manor, open fire, stunning views over valley. 01453 873378.

STRATFORD For the discerning 2 lux cotts in barn conv. Orig beams, splendid views slps 4+2 + cot N/S or pets ETB 5 Key H/Commended 01925 604106

THE FINEST in the Cotswolds. English Country Cottages. Tel:0990 851111. REF EM2524

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

DORSET & New Forest Specialists. Choose from over 220 cottages 01456 852505 (LRC210)

THE FINEST in Dorset. English Country Cottages. Tel:0990 851111. REF EM2521

WEST DORSET Coastal Manor House, sleeps 10. Weeks & w/es. Tel: 01308 456288.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL
3 nights from £79
Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal
Large seafront hotel, entertainment, indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna.
* FREE CAR FERRY *
Sandringham Hotel, Seafront, Sandown, Isle of Wight
Telephone: 01983 406655
* 3 nights March £89

EAST ANGLIA

EAST ANGLIA Specialists. Choose from over 460 properties. 01456 852505 (LRC207)

NORFOLK COUNTRY COTTAGES. Over 100 holiday properties. Slp 2-10. Tel: 01603 871872

VERE LODGE North Norfolk. 14 cottages sleep 2/7 in glorious 8 acre grounds. Heated indoor pool, sauna etc. Grass tennis, croquet, children's small animal farm. Log fires, pets, short breaks at silly prices. For Brochure call 01328 838261.

THE FINEST in East Anglia. English Country Cottages. Tel:0990 851111. REF EM2523

English Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in Norfolk and Suffolk
Free 436 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851111
REF EM766 (24Hrs)

RAC *** The AA ***
BLAKENEY HOTEL
BLAKENEY, NORFOLK
Unique and envied position overlooking National Trust Harbour, 60 bedrooms, hzd indoor pool, spa bath, saunas, gym & billiard/games rooms. Relax, sail, walk, birdwatch, play golf, explore the Norfolk villages, countryside & coast.
• *Midweek & Weekend Breaks*
• *4, 5 & 7 Day Holidays*
• *Special Midweek Rates for Senior Citizens*
For a brochure telephone 01263 740797

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

BLAKES
HOLIDAY BOATING IN BRITAIN AND ABROAD
BOOK NOW ONLY £50 INITIAL PAYMENT
FULLY ABTA BONDED
PLEASE QUOTE REF.:3G11
DIAL-A-BROCHURE ANY TIME
01603 784458

BOATING in BRITAIN
The widest choice. The Norfolk Broads, Canals, River Thames and Wey, the Fens and Scotland. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 602
Quote B7443
HOSEASONS

ITALY

TUSCANY/UMBRIA - quality selection of private villas & apts, sleeping 2-22. For 1998 brochure Cottages to Castles. 01622 720731 ABTOT bonded.

TUSCANY Fosaia, nr Lucca, medieval hamlet restored by sculptor. In hills, 30 mins sea. S/C houses slp 2/8, pool. Tel/Fax: 0033 493 562006

TUSCAN/Umbrian bdrs. Delightful old hillside farmhse, stunning views, 3 beds/2 baths, slps 6 + baby. 0181 674 0958.

TUSCANY/SICILY Select properties in excellent locations, pools etc. Brochure 01539 431120 ABTA Y7333

TUSCANY beautiful lux villa nr Lucca. Slps 12. Heated pool Superb views. 0117 914 5255

TUSCANY Nr Bagni di Lucca. Cottage in hillside village, slps 4. From £188pw. 01372 811228

UMBRIA Farmhouse apt. Near Lake Trasimeno. Slps. 2/4. From £270/wk. Brochure. Williams 0117 9245938.

UMBRIA/TUSCANY border. Beautiful farm house. Large pool. 01379 650913.

UMBRIA nr Todi, newley restored luxury farmhouse, 4 bdrms, pool, private. 0171 794 4211

UMBRIA 18 century hilltop farm house with large pool, sleeps 10 or 8+2. 01386 870947.

VENICE s/c flat in beautifully restored palazzo. Also dbl rm with bth at £75per night incl brkfst. 0039 41 5225685 eves

VENICE, Central. Stay with us in our palatial home. Open all yr S/c apt avail. 0171 7227137.

VENICE comf cent apt, slps 3/4, c/h, TV, phone, nr all amens. £300/350pw. 01225 311302.

VIAREGGIO Tuscany. Penthse flat nr sea. 8 people max. Huge sunny balcony. 01242 521482

ITALIAN COLLECTION
Tuscany, Umbria, Abruzzo, Marche, Sardinia, Rome & Venice
Beautiful farmhouses & cottages with private swimming pools in unrivalled rural locations.
01403 259788(24hrs)
ILIOS TRAVEL Ltd
AITO ATOL 1452

MALTA & GOZO

EXTENSIVE Choice of Hotels, Villas & Apts for best prices Brochure avail 01204 369114.

GOZO Secluded villas with pool sleep 2-7 people. From £349 pppw, inc. flight and car hire. For Sunworld Beach Villas brochure, call 0990 58 58 58.

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE Apt with pool, slps 5/6, beaches, golf, restaurant, bars 5 mins, fishing village nr Albufeira. 01189 403073.

SIMPLY Portugal
Truly individual villas with pools, glorious manor houses and selected hotels and pousadas all over this fascinating country, from the Minho and the Douro to the lesser-known Algarve. Plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays and city breaks.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

ITALY

CREATE YOUR PERFECT ITALIAN HOLIDAY
Do as you like. When you like. How you like. See your Travel Agent or call our 24 hour BROCHURE HOTLINE ON
0990 437 227
Quote Ref: T98
ITALIAN Escapades
THE UNPACKAGED HOLIDAY.

Discover the wonder of Italy with
ITALIAN LIFE
THE WIDEST RANGE OF VILLAS
TUSCANY · UMBRIA · VENETO · LAZIO · SICILY
24 HOUR BROCHURELINE
0113 2050 205
QUOTE REF: ST0102

SPAIN

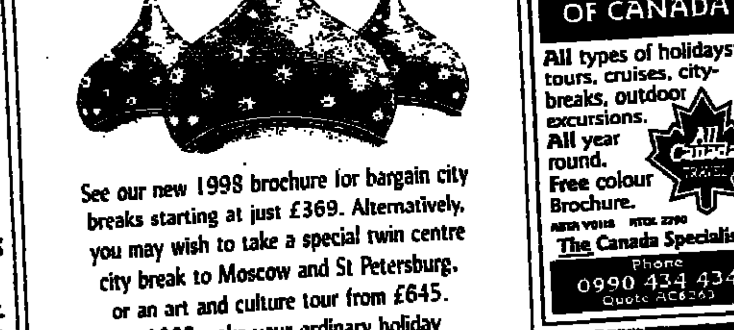
The Best of Spain & Portugal
Paradores & Pousadas
Exclusive tailor-made holidays far from mass tourism staying at hotels converted from castles, palaces etc. and other excellent hotels. Fly-drive (also chauffeur-driven) or ferry holidays.
Unicorn Holidays 01582 83 4400
More than an ordinary holiday!
ATOL 2431 AITO ABTA V1074
MALLORCA ALSO

RUSSIA

RUSSIA Independent Travel Specialists since 1973. Fukgs, airfares, groups INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

TSAR GAZING. RUSSIA FROM £369.

1998



See our new 1998 brochure for bargain city breaks starting at just £369. Alternatively, you may wish to take a special twin centre city break to Moscow and St Petersburg, or an art and culture tour from £645. In 1998 make your ordinary holiday extraordinary. Visit Russia with the specialist, Intourist Travel. Call us now for more details.

LONDON 0171 538 8600 MANCHESTER 0161 834 0230 GLASGOW 0141 204 5809

Please send me more information on Intourist 1998 holidays.
Name
Address
Postcode

Intourist TRAVEL LIMITED
Now you can.

USA & CANADA

ANNA MARIA Island, Gulf Coast. 2 bd, 2 bth lux condo, beaches. £365pw. 01903 506276

BEST rental prices for luxury private villas & apts & cars Florida South West Gulf coast & Orlando. For colour brochure and friendly advice. Florida Rentals 01822 856534

DISNEY 15 mins, luxury 4 bed villa. Huge pool and deck + Spa. From £375pw. 01695 579008.

CAPE COD, Superb 1 bedroom home, sleeps 4 with amenities. Surf, beaches, bike trails, golf, fishing, touring. 2 hours to Boston. $590pw. Dublin 00 353 1 2875827

FLORIDA New private large luxury 4 bed villa, Htd pool, on lake, slps 8-10, Disney 10 mins. Exclusive quiet location. Tel/Fax: 0191 5640728/5513458

GULF COAST Large executive homes with pools, sleep up to 12. fr £425pw. 01277 652628

BEST Sarasota Florida. 3 bed, 2 bath lux pool home, beaches, £395pw. 01903 506276

GULF COAST Englewood. New Lux pool home, 3 bdrs, close beaches, golf. 01600 780570

NEW ENGLAND Connection. Inspected homes: Cape Cod, Vermont, Maine, New Hamps. 01306 877 500 for brochure.

NEW YORK, New York - Apartments - short stays. All Manhattan locations. Have fun in NYC from £99.00 per apt. per night. Tel: Apartments International 0171 9353561

ORLANDO Villa/pool nr Disney. Slps 6. Vacs Summer '98/ Winter specials. 01883 744558

SANIBEL ISLAND, Fla. Charming 2 bedrm apt, waterway views, pool, tennis. BBQs, nr beach. From £300pw. 01323 871276.

ST SIMONS Island, Georgia: Brit writer's house slps 6. Deep south village/beach/sea food /pelicans. Fab! Nr Savannah & Okefenokee 0181 2924960

ALL THE BEST OF CANADA
All types of holidays; tours, cruises, city-breaks, outdoor excursions.
All year round.
Free colour Brochure.
ABTA V0118 ATOL 2290
The Canada Specialists
Phone 0990 434 434
Quote AC6263

NEW ENGLAND COUNTRY HOMES
Coastal, lakeside and inland homes throughout New England.
FREE 116 PAGE BROCHURE
(0990) 143686 (24 Hrs)
Quote Ref. A175.
ATOL 2433

ARIZONA
Visit the 'Grand Canyon State' of Arizona and relax in the fantastic resort towns of Scottsdale and Tucson. Also visit Tombstone, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Sedona and the Grand Canyon itself.
Call Premier Holidays for an Arizona guide and our full American brochure on
01787 884031
Quote ref ARZ
ABTA V0702 ATOL 2712

هكذا من الاصل

TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISER...

...BY VOICE MAIL When responding to an advertiser call 0897 505 563 (*calls cost £1.00 per minute*) and then follow the simple voice instructions.

All advertisements in Rendezvous have the ☎ symbol, indicating that the advertiser has the facility for you to leave him/her a voice message.



All postal replies should be addressed to Box No ... c/o The Times, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

THE TIMES

ABUNDANCE of stunning ladies - shortage of nice men! Candlebourners has some super chaps already but you go snapped up very quickly so we always need more. Personal Introductions and Enchanted Evenings for attractive professional people. Please call Cheryl Brown 0171 351 5536 Est 1990

ACROSS THE ROOM Clients, Essex, Suffolk, Sparkling Parties, Candlelit dinners. 01277 352742 for brochure

ALONE? Don't be! Join Country-wide Unmatched Register. 01983 522855 for brochure.

AMERICANS seek romance & marriage with British ladies & gentlemen - all ages! English Rose & English Connection. Tel: 01843 863522 or Fax 01843 863346 (24 hrs)!

ATTRACTIVE people wear parties. Dalibutted wine £20. Tues Feb 17th 0171 583 3339

BEAUTIFUL Thai Ladies. Colour brochure. Meet introductions. Tel: 01689 860 880 (anytime)

BROMLEY, Bexley, S.E. London, Dartford, Gravesend. Looking for that special someone? Call Elite any time 0181 468 7576

CIRCLES. So exclusive. It's where you'd expect to meet that someone special. Telephone 0181 426 9168

COMMODORE Is the friendship club that puts single Charterers in touch with each other. Ring us on 0181 906 4467.

ESSEX and Suffolk 'Elite'. Quality ladies and gentlemen genuinely seeking a long term partner - There are only a phone call away Tom 0500 497775

EXETER, W. Country, Bath and S.Wales. Executive Club at Bristol quality social events. Introductions 0117 973 5877

EXETER Postcodes. Call Elite for successful, interesting, quality introductions 0800 214920

FINDING that special someone has never been such fun. Parties & Dinner parties, Go-Karting & Polo. The Theatre, Opera and Country Circles. The Social Events Company for Single People. Telephone 0181 426 9168.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE/Wiltshire (20-55) For a good social life join 'My Friends' Drinks evenings, dances, suits, special nights out. Call 01684 295801 (2-7pm)

HI-SOCIETY! Super Party SW1. Sat 21st Feb. Elegant Frolic 30-50. £30.50 incl charity donation. Call Anthony 0171 586 5789

HOLIDAY partner friendship service from United Travellers tel 01428 722833 (24 hours)

MIDLANDS attractive professionals meet through executive social events. Exclusive Co 07071 711771/0121 711 7717

NEWCASTLE/Durham/Teesside Find someone special with Elite: Julia/Ian 01870 506128

NO Time To Wait! Find your Valentine's date. 4 immediate introductions (Plus One Year Membership) £79.95 only Matchmakers International 2 Norfolk Crescent, London W2 2DH. Tel/Fax 0171 706 3891.

PERSONAL introductions and an unmatched calendar of superb events for selective discerning people. Circles. Tel: 0181 426 9168.

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 715909.

RUSSIAN ladies, attractive & sincere, seek romance/ marriage. IFM. Tel: 01708 478697.

SHREWSBURY Shropshire Mid Wales You'll be surprised how local we are Elite 0800 009444

SINGLES PARTIES Covent Garden. Every Thursday. Ages 30-50. From £25.00. 0171-836 3070.

STANLEY MANN ENTERTAINS London's leading singles Social Club - dinner venues - free 3 month membership. Join us at our next Disco Party - Dover Street wine bar - telephone Christine 0171 491 2949

SURREY/W Sussex attractive and successful local introductions with Elite 01883 744405

THE DINNER CLUB (Est.'84) Join UK's largest up-market singles dining club and enjoy dining, dancing, weekends away, holidays abroad (01244) 548816

THIS PICTURE Dating idea is brilliant' Capital Radio, call for details 0171 839 8884 (day) 0181 297 1424 (anytime) ABIA

WESTCOUNTRY Elite, Somerset Devon Cornwall Quality Introductions call 0800 214920

YORKSHIRE Humberside probably The No 1 Personal Introduction & Social Events Service in your area. Elite Introductions Freecall 0800 525240

LADIES

ANGLO/ITALIAN, attractive, new, feminine, single lady, 38, 5'6", slim, dark, YLR based, WLTM tall, prof., sincere gent, 38-45. Letter & photo please.Box 1012

APPEALING brunette, cuddly, adventurous, caring, cosmopolitan, 47, WLTM genuine, sophisticated, prof./ business gent, view serious relationship. Please Reply to Box No 1015

ARE you warm, romantic, genuine & interesting with a GREAT Do you live in or around Hampshire? If so, then I would love to hear from you. Box No 9776

ARE you my special man? Warm, exciting, 50+, Mr Right, loving, attractive, cheerful, fanciful, romantic fun, laughter & unwavering. Box No 9995

ATTRACTIVE, slim, professional lady, who would never dream of advertising, seeks humorous, honest man, 48-55, who would never dream of replying, for mutual dream of happiness. Ref 9992

ATTRACTIVE, warm, caring, professional lady, 50, seeks kind, attractive, professional man, 50-65, for love & marriage. Surrey/S.E. Box No 9891

BLOND bombshell, classy & stylish, seeks affluent, articulate, gorgeous, charismatic, brave & unattached gent, 50+, London/Surrey. Photo. Box No 9918

BRIGHT and beautiful blue-eyed blonde, slim 31, 5'7". Are you handsome with VISION & enjoy a lavish & exciting lifestyle? Photo essential. Box No 9908

BRIGHTON 'Elite'. For introductions in Sussex call Nigel on 01273 270976 Anytime

BRISTOL/Bath area. For local, professional introductions call Chris at Elite: 0117 973 6663

BROMLEY, Bexley, S.E. London, Gravesend Gentlemen over 55! Call Elite for details of our special rates. 0181 658 7576

CALL Birmingham 'Elite' now - Gentlemen! Over 500 attractive, local ladies. Contact Diana 0121 323 3314 7 days

CAPRICIOUS woman 42, tall and slim, (a head runner on a good day), longs just to be somebody's ever-loving woman. Much love to give to a worldly, powerful, brave, lucky chap with a soft centre. Any country. Letters preferred. Box No 9401

CLUB ENCOUNTERS. London and M4 Corridor. 0800 141 141.

COTSWOLDS. 50+ woman seeks part-time husband for occasional mere inc. travel. Box 9901

DORSET Elite. For local ladies with to be solo quad in wellies or ball gowns. All ages, 1-2-1 confidential introductions. For a chat call 01794 324433

E. SCOTLAND (EX-FIR-AB Tribesite): Idiosyncratic, attractive woman (53), broad thinker, loves music (blues, jazz, rock, most other), arts, laughs, supporting life, seeks similar person, 40/60, for potentially intimate but unencumbering friendship. Must be highly intelligent, humorous, honest, energetic, creative, discreet & feisty. Please Reply to Box No 9975

ENGLISH ROSE c.1956, slender stem, soft petals & delicate but warm fragrance. Seeks mature evergreen for lark's dustbase around which to entwine. Write with photo Box No 1016

FEMINEERS, slim, attractive lady seeks caring, professional gent, 50+, who will make her laugh, likes dining out, country weekends, holidays & provides good companionship. Photo. N.U./N. Yorks. Box No 9965

FIVE ab fab girlies wishing to meet five ab fab men for Fri night out. Box No 9874

FOR an exclusive introductions service to quality ladies, Dovercall London 0171 483 3377.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

GENUINE Russian lady, attractive, refined, early 30s, 5'9", seeks affluent, sophisticated gentleman 38-45 for loving relationship to enjoy the finer things in life together. Please Reply with photo. Box No 9946

GENUINE Thai ladies wishing to meet genuine English gentlemen. Call Terry Wilson on 01768 262134 and meet us for a cup of tea and a chat about the facts.

HERTS. Tall, classy blonde, 40's, WLTM tall, solvent, caring gent, 50's, loving relationship. Photo. Box No 9965

INTELLIGENT, lively, mature woman, 40s, seeks solvent, presentable male partner; compatibility more important than age. Allergies, football a pop. Genuinely S.W. Box No 9906

LONDON 'Elite' the One to One Introduction Agency for business and professional people. For a discreet, personal service call Elite 0171 637 7171

LONG-LEGGED blonde, (32), attractive, fun, intelligent, unrivalled, seeks Beau. If you're 30-49, tall, handsome, professional with a sense of humour & daring enough to answer this ad, you may be in for the adventure of your life. Photo please. Box No 9957

LOVELY American anglophile, no diva, dreams of living happily ever after with country gentleman, man & his dogs. Are you fun, 28-35, handsome, stable, sensible, n/s, caring, with good character & values? Photo & phone please. Box No 9960

LOVELY, petite, equestrian, cultured brunette, 31, WLTM romantic, reliable, caring, solvent professional with no children. S. Wales. Box No 9974

MEN, why write to one when you can meet hundreds of eligible, beautiful women by calling Club Encounters free on 0800 141 141.

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 'Elite' Valentines by the score - all seeking attractive, articulate men, all ages - just like you. Why be one of the few? Valentine is 7th? Call Elite now 0115 937 6104 for free info pack

ORIENTAL lady, 27, WLTM kindhearted gentleman for romance. I am very caring. Please Reply to Box No 999

OXBRIDGE woman, personable, lively, warm & unpretentious, seeks similar man, 60's, to share cultural interests, talk, laughter & being together. Oxfordshire. Box No 9996

PARSEE or Circassian - Lady (25) WLTM kind gentleman with VISION for going out (Concerts, theatre.) in Central London. Box No 9983

PETITE brunette (40's) N/s, into outdoors/fitness countryside, log fires, good food/wine but missing vital ingredient. Is that you? Clean. Box 9999

PRETTY woman, (26), elegant. Long red unsuiting dress, pearls and sparkle. Awaits invite? Free complimentary smile. Midlands Ex 9999

RICHMOND Kingston Esher Elite +25 mile radius 100's of members 0181 580 0028 7 days

RUSSIAN/Ukrainian ladies seeking romance/marriage. WALA Member 0181 447 0835 24 hrs

SOUTHERN gentlemen who visits Aberdeen? I am the opposite. Slim, intelligent, professional lady, divorced, early forty, golfer twenty, Cam still run, swim, bike. Music, cordon-bleu. WLTM active gentleman for occasional visits or much more. Box No 9877

SOUTH HANTS based 46 year old brunette standing over, WLTM cheerful, sincere, professional guy, 45+, 5'10"+, for future trips/ socialising. Photo & letter reply. Please Reply to Box No 9782

STUNNING blonde seeks millionaire. Likes witty, generous, non-wearing man. No smokers or time-wasters. Box No 9965

SURREY gentlemen required for our quality lady members. Dovercall. 01932 783165.

TALL, attractive, sporty girl seeks quirky, wealthy, equivalent boy, 45-54. Loves theatre, London, dining, family, friends & entertaining.Box No 9981

TALL, attractive, prof, brunette, enjoys sports, travel, the arts, WLTM similar male. Box No 1018

TITIAN haired, blue-eyed, 26 y/ old seeks prof, sociable, fun-loving, intelligent enjoys cinema, theatre, travel, dinners, bullfrock wearing, anti-conformist, genuine prof man to enjoy similar interests. Please phone to Box No 9898

TWO tall, attractive, public school graduates, 30's looking for laughter & love, each two attractive men, 25-40, London & home counties. Write Box 9886

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS



PASSION for life! Are you a male who loves travel & adventure? Could you share hopes, fears & the occasional problem? I am 43, female, professional, many interests, needs space but values companionship & so do you. Call only. London area.

REAL redhead who relates to Russia, Rock n' Roll, walking and inspirational music seeks 45-60 Recent photo please Londonish Box No 9419

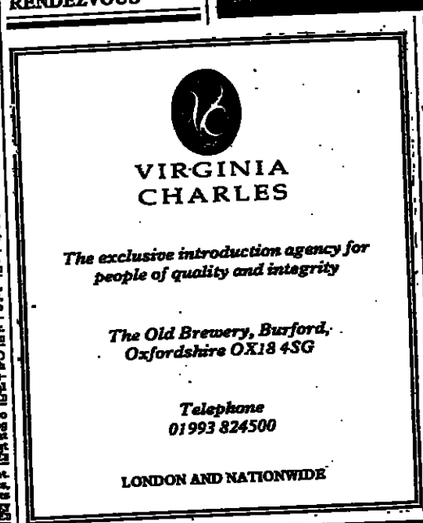
ROLLS ROYCE 1946 model, excellent body work & engine, at present garage in Gloucester. Offers? Any reasonable offer please. Box No 9637

SLIM attractive, 30, loyal and well educated, seeks secure, fulfilling relationship with caring, sincere, fit, solvent male, 40+. Enjoy theatre, music, travel, open-minded, open-hearted and good life. WLTM genuine man. Similar background, age 30s/40s with view to serious long term relationship. London/Essex Box No 9714

UNSOPHISTICATED, gentle, slim, attractive, warm-hearted, 40's, with all the usual interests apart from pubs and clubs, enjoys parties, would love to hear from you - a kind, tall, fit, honest, fun-loving man with a sense of fun. Surrey/ SW London. Letter & photo please to Box No 9713

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS







SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

ACTIVE in the arts & business world, London based, wishes to meet attractive & interesting lady, 35-45, to form lasting relationship. Reply with photo & phone no. Box No 1011

ALONE on holiday? Join a schoolage party in Tuscany for a luxury sun-drenched holiday, gluttonous food, watersports and fiesty nights ashore. A flawless housepartner for discerning travellers. Day-Dawson 0171 621 4436.

AMUSING, attractive English gentleman, London based, ex Public School, ex Cambridge, ex City now looking for permanent relationship with caring, loving lady, 30's to 40's to share his pursuits, through life. He is also very considerate, with children and vulnerable - the lady should be the same. Please reply with photo to Box 1017

BE my Valentine? Handsome, successful & creative professional, early 40's, with GSOH, WLTM slim, good looking lady, despairing of finding a loving, adventurous woman who is interested in a long term relationship. Box 9640. Let's Celebrate Valentine's Day! Letter & photo please. Please reply to Box No 1002

BRIGHTON 'Elite'. For introductions in Sussex call Nigel on 01273 270976 Anytime

BRISTOL/Bath area. For local, professional introductions call Chris at Elite: 0117 973 6663

CALL Birmingham 'Elite' now - Ladies! Over 500 attractive, local gentlemen. Contact Diana 0121 323 3314 7 days

CLUB ENCOUNTERS. London and M4 Corridor. 0800 141 141.

DIRECTOR 39 Co., retired, divorced, very presentable, very affectionate, intellectually, very stimulating, very short, handsome, need his lady, young 40ish, pleasant face & figure, romantic, fun, sensual, enjoys variety, talk, reading, light music, cooking, good food, going to quiet pubs, walking in the country & cuddly intimacy, when at home - all the normal things we do 'make' able to make time to 'make' love, into an Open Day all Valentine days, transforming experience into an 'Era' of enjoyment! Please reply, with recent photo, & London/ Surrey, Sussex. Box No 1007

DORSET Elite. For discreet local gentlemen with honour & style who like to be treated well by us. All ages, 1-2-1 confidential introductions. For a chat call 01794 324433

DOWN-TO-EARTH guy, 34, with a wicked SOH, WLTM, very attractive petite local female, 25-30ish, with great sense of fun, for meals, more? Hearthover area. Letter & photo really pleases. Ta. Box No

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FIT & sporty, happy & young disposition, 37 years, n/s, country lover, good prof, attractive with good figure, WLTM beautiful, affectionate lady, 22-40, for real, adventurous, warm friendship/ possible LTR. Box No 1012 photo if possible.

FIT, successful, professional, late 40's male, recently moved to London (W), WLTM slim, good looking girl for weekly dinner, fun & companionship. Photo Reply to Box No 9918

FOR an exclusive introduction service to quality men. Dovercall London 0171 483 3377.

GOOD fun, great personality, good-looking tall, n/s, educated, fit guy, 30's, WLTM attractive, fit, slim, good-looking, like's down-to-earth, genuine & total commitment. Please Reply to Box No 9972

GOOD looking entrepreneur businessman, early forties, very caring, open, romantic, fun, seeks very attractive, slim, 25-35 to help with specific interests. Please write with photo to Box 9763

HANDSOME 50s year old gentleman, public school educated, seeks very attractive, slim, well spread lady who is not afraid to enjoy a party, long term relationship. Please write with photo to Box 9908

HAPPY, successful, kind, humorous, 50, professional man seeking caring, bright, slim lady, with natural interests & considerate, to share Valentine's Day 9934

IF your delightful stock holder book behind the running one then a little bird tells me that you are looking for a new investment. Please write with interesting details(own). As I am an extremely successful, fun, single 40 year old professional, with a wicked sense of humour, who enjoys variety, talk, reading, light music, cooking, good food, going to quiet pubs, walking in the country & cuddly intimacy, when at home - all the normal things we do 'make' able to make time to 'make' love, into an Open Day all Valentine days, transforming experience into an 'Era' of enjoyment! Please reply, with recent photo, & London/ Surrey, Sussex. Box No 1007

LOOKING 'Elite' the One to One Introduction Agency for business and professional people. For a discreet, personal service call Elite 0171 637 7171

MATCHMAKERS. Valentine's Day is every day at Club Encounters! Call today on 0800 141 141.

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

PROPERTIED physician, Patrician of Avon, single dad, eclectic Bibliophile, early 50s, for cuddles, shenanigans, n/s, for caring, sharing fun. Letters only. Box No 9766

RICHMOND Kingston Esher Elite +25 mile radius 100's of members 0181 580 0028 7 days.

ROMANTIC, tactile, tall, 50, interest in fitness, seeks slender lady, to love on Valentine's Day & beyond. Letter & photo appreciated. Box No 9924

SPORTY SOuth, not my executive, but fast attractive & humorous true love seeks equivalent, with a love of the countryside, n/s, honest Hants/Wilts border-ish, honest Hants/Wilts borderish, if you are attractive, humorous & a favourite please share my dinner parties. Box 7772 Recent photo please.

SPRING approaches. Wanted, educated, caring, active lady, young 50-65, to share the joys (& labours) of a pottery cottage, garden & a log fire (and bed) in lovely country, with lively Bassett/Monmouth arse. Write to Bassett/Monmouth arse, Box 9787, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9YT.

SUPERB appearance. Wanted, educated, caring, active lady, young 50-65, to share the joys (& labours) of a pottery cottage, garden & a log fire (and bed) in lovely country, with lively Bassett/Monmouth arse. Write to Bassett/Monmouth arse, Box 9787, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9YT.

SURREY ladies required for our quality gentlemen. Dovercall 01932 783165.

THE MAGIC FLUTE. Winner summer Ball. Helter, coffee, Phew, Delfin Fragrance, Sweet sandwich, Pulsation, Sunset, Pleasure, Parental, no bear. Box No 1001

VALENTINE'S DAY is every day at Club Encounters! Call today on 0800 141 141.

VALENTINE'S DAY is every day at Club Encounters! Call today on 0800 141 141.

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

CITY BROKER, young 52, smart, 5'9", WLTM pretty, n/s lady, 30-40, interested in loving relationship. Enjoy dining out, theatre, travel and lots more. London & West Berks. Reply with photo & recent number please. Box No 9707

LOOKING 'Elite' the One to One Introduction Agency for business and professional people. For a discreet, personal service call Elite 0171 637 7171

MARRIAGE-MINDED, tall, slim, attractive, early 30s, WLTM genuine, caring, romantic, fun-loving, slim, tall, fit, n/s, solvent, professional gent, 30s-40s, for long-term relationship. Photo please. Box No 9487

MATCHMAKERS. Valentine's Day is every day at Club Encounters! Call today on 0800 141 141.

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

SHERBORNE/HENSTRIDGE, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Hants. Elite for successful, interesting, quality introductions 0800 214920

SOUTHERN gentleman, 6'2", 40's, WLTM slim, attractive, intelligent, professional lady, 30's, for friendship, possibly more. Box No 9988

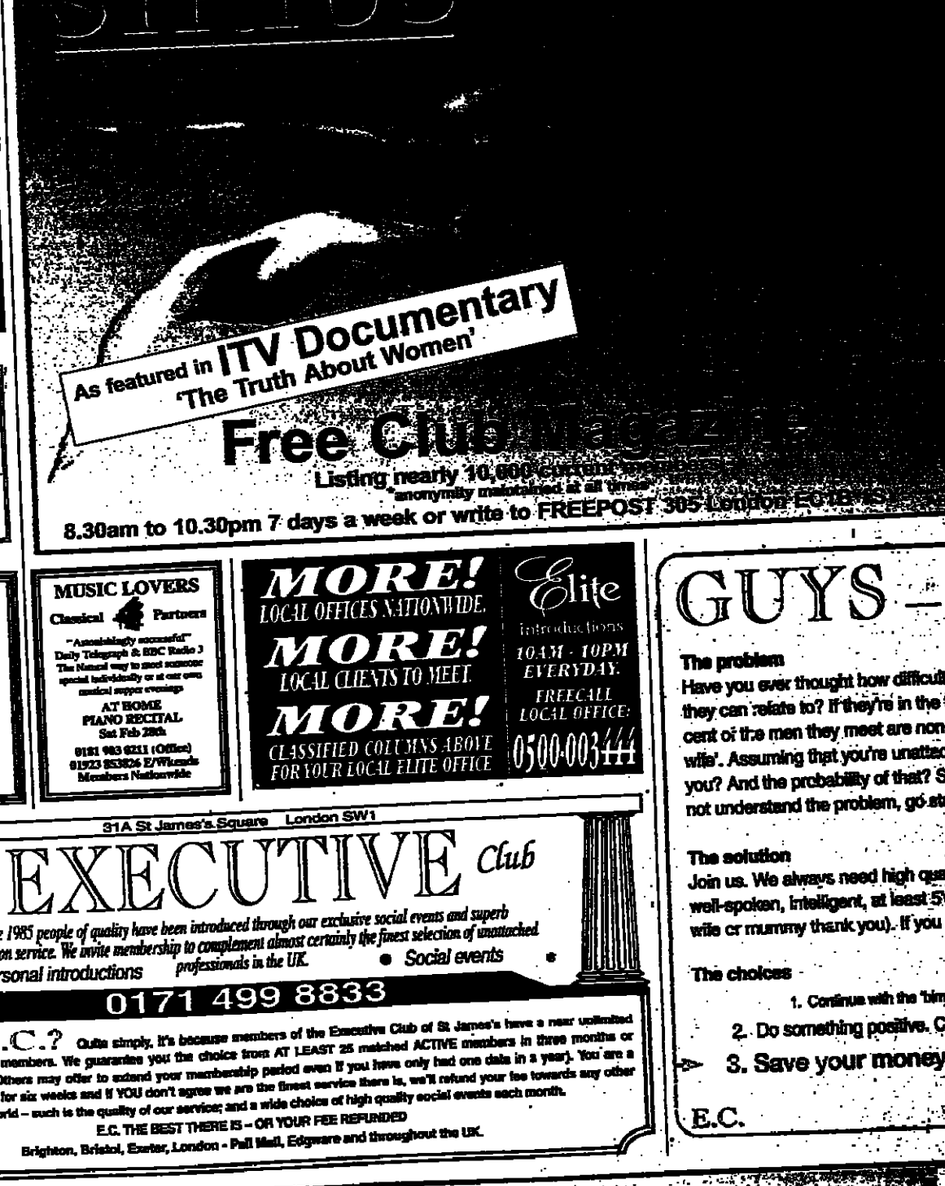
SUSSEX/Surrey/Hants. Elite for successful, interesting, quality introductions 0800 214920

TALL, attractive, prof, brunette, enjoys sports, travel, the arts, WLTM similar male. Box No 1018

TITIAN haired, blue-eyed, 26 y/ old seeks prof, sociable, fun-loving, intelligent enjoys cinema, theatre, travel, dinners, bullfrock wearing, anti-conformist, genuine prof man to enjoy similar interests. Please phone to Box No 9898

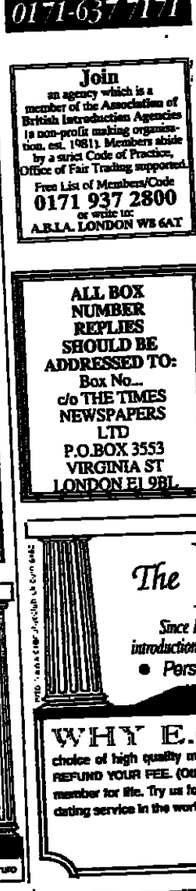
TWO tall, attractive, public school graduates, 30's looking for laughter & love, each two attractive men, 25-40, London & home counties. Write Box 9886

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS



SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS





GUYS – READ THIS!

The problem

Have you ever thought how difficult it is for attractive successful women to meet guys they can relate to? If they're in the top ten percent of the population financially, that means ninety per cent of the men they meet are non-starters. That's just [illegible] alone personality and 'the wife'. Assuming that you're unattached and [illegible] where could they go to meet you? And the probability of that? So now you know [illegible] have top quality ladies. If you do not understand the problem, go straight to the end of this ad.

The solution

Join us. We always need high quality gentlemen. However, you will need to be aged over 25, well-spoken, intelligent, at least 5'6" tall, successful in your career and completely unattached (no wife or mummy thank you). If you can't meet this specification, go straight to the end of this ad.

The choices

1. Continue with the 'bimbo route' and hope you will eventually bump into someone classy.
2. Do something positive. Call The Executive Club on 07000 499 8833 and we'll spoil you
3. Save your money - The Executive Club will not work for you.

E.C. E.C.



RENDEZVOUS

TO PLACE AN AD...

BY PHONE
0171 481 4000

BY POST, FAX OR EMAIL
Post: please attach your wording to the coupon provided.
Advertise for only £8.23 per line and a simple box charge of £11.75, (box number is open/closed).

All advertisers will now receive postal replies *and* voice mail response facility at no extra charge.

TO RESPOND TO AN AD...

BY VOICE MAIL
When responding to an advertiser call 0897 505 563 (*calls cost £1.00 per minute at all times*) and then follow the simple voice instructions.

BY POST
All postal replies should be addressed to Box No ... c/o The Times, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

Fax: 0171 481 9313 or E-mail, Lisa.Rail@newsint.co.uk

THE TIMES

RENDEZVOUS

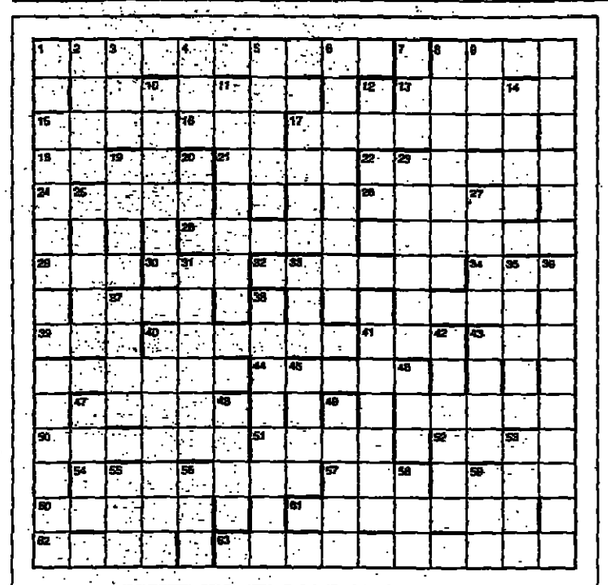
NAME:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
TEL(DAY):
ACCESS/VISA AMEX
CARD NO:
EXPIRY DATE:
SIGNATURE:

Trade advertisers must quote their VAT registration number.
Please attach your wording and send to: Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD

صكذا من الاصل

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3449: Work or Pen Name by Mordred



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3449
in association with Waterstone's

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

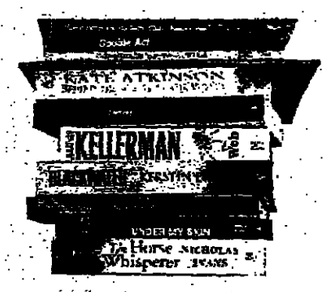
.....

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3449, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, February 26.

W

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 01225 448595.

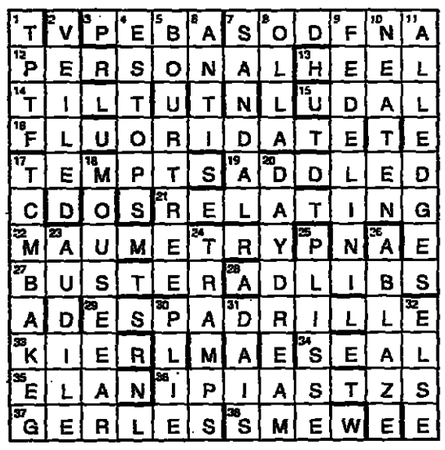
Reference to the appropriate clues will reveal the unclued lights.

ACROSS

1 Kicking oneself (10)
8 Tony won provoking catcall (4)
13 A fish supper free from fuss HP sauce will do for fast food consumer (5)
15 Boring part, recited yawningly (4)
16 Corporal punishment for con (111)
17 Electrical apparatus requiring to cleave resistance (7)
18 Device used by director showing ET perhaps half *cut after first steps to his education* (4)
21 Measure up to a champion (4)
22 Michael drops gold in basket (6)
24 A good pea soup is a feast (5)
26 *Cuts waste on board* (5)
28 A pulse taken around noon indicates interruption to air flow (5)
29 Sides with the last of the Mohicans (3)
30 *Hold in suspense* (3)
32 Momentous 'Men Only' number (6)
34 Stick handle (3)
39 Revered figure left of centre of party (3)
40 *King playing role constrained by the limits of* Cinemascope (6)
41 Ten's wails (3)
43 Bird cage (3)
44 *Healey (Labour): great heart lost to* Welfare (5)
47 Tone upsets lamps (5)
50 Remove pin (6)
51 St Philip was not abreast of religious instruction (4)
52 *Two-thirds of the Indian boundary* (4)
54 Three men in a boat (7)
57 Distilled sea water (3)
60 Bibulous Guinness trail left by Stirling Moss
61 *Waits for scraps* (7)
62 Courts of old Squeers at intervals (4)
63 Measure for measure (10)

DOWN

2 Reportedly an essential ingredient in Caribbean cookery (4)
3 The scarlet letter (3)
4 At new house (3)
5 Chase round answering philosopher (5)
6 Hard times (5,3)
7 Free Poe work (3)
8 *Lord of the rings* (7)
9 Plough up and down (3)
10 Lolita's perhaps maiden appearing on page in Nabokov's first shy novel (6)
11 *Darkness at noon* (7)
12 Resistance units in a state disheartened Maquis (4)
14 Bows uplifted in scraping (4)
17 Point counter point (4)
19 *Sons and lovers* (4)
20 Leaves of grass (3)
23 Combination producing minus one (3-3)
25 Two states are going to pot (5)
27 *Measure* knob (4)
31 A measure of anarchy (6)
33 The wind in the willows? (3)
35 Organs do enhance requiems' overtures indeed (5)
36 *The women in white* (9)
37 Bits of course not taken in (4)
38 The jewel in the crown (5)
42 Con detective caught in Dublin? (6)
43 *Cry after chaser: 'Run out to cover boundary'* (4)
45 Further back (4)
46 Character barred from Spain departs on the hour (3)
47 *Horsepower around* eg stakes (4)
48 Humble King Arthur leads (4)
49 Uriah Heep was equal to Charlie's tipping (5)
53 One fish's tail's nothing to another (4)
55 *Australian Not one in Perth* (3)
58 Fish from smack (3)
59 Flier in a spin (3)



Solution to No 3446: Not Playing Fair by Waterloo

The winner is Kevin McDermid, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
The runners up are Mr and Mrs P.C. Hall, of Poole, Dorset; H.W.W. Pollitt, of Sevenoaks, Kent; Richard Regan, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; John Davenport, of Kenley, Surrey; J.R.F. McGlashan, of Selsey, West Sussex.

LISTENER DINNER — MARCH 21

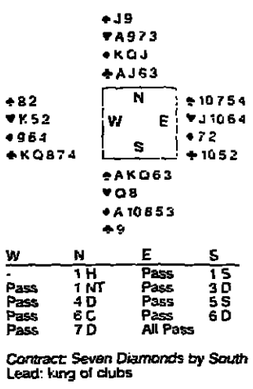
There are still places available for setters and solvers wishing to attend this function. Write to P. Henderson, 4a Callis Road, London E17 8PN for details, or e-mail *phenderson@dial.pipex.com*

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN QUESTION FOUR of the Christmas competition I gave you the North-South cards on the hand below, and asked you to play Seven Diamonds as South, on the lead of the king of clubs.

Dealer North North-South game IMPs



W	N	E	S
-	1 H	Pass	1 S
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 D
Pass	4 D	Pass	5 S
Pass	6 C	Pass	6 D
Pass	7 D	All Pass	

Contract: Seven Diamonds by South
Lead: king of clubs

When the hand occurred in the 1951 World Championship, the bidding was as above. Perhaps the most important bid in the auction was North's decision to raise diamonds. Usually you need four-card support to raise your partner's second suit, but North recognised that three honours were good enough.

The declarer was Howard Schenken, who at that time was rated the best player in the world. He received the accolade by winning a poll in which the American experts of the day were asked "if you had to play for your soul against the devil, who would you want as your partner?" Schenken was the easy winner. Another method is to poll all the experts, asking them "who is the second best player in the world?"

Seven Diamonds is not a difficult contract for someone familiar with "dummy reversal". In a dummy reversal, ruffs are taken in the hand longer in trumps, and the short hand (usually but not necessarily dummy) is used for drawing the remaining trumps. For the technique to gain a trick, sufficient ruffs must be taken in the long trump hand to reduce its trumps to fewer than the short hand.

Schenken won the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in hand. He then played off the king and queen of diamonds. Had the trumps been 4-1, his only chance would be to run off his diamonds and spades and hope West started with the king of hearts and the queen of clubs: in that case West would be squeezed. When both defenders followed to the second diamond Schenken ruffed another club high, crossed to the jack of spades and ruffed dummy's last club, and then crossed to the ace of hearts to draw the last trump. When spades broke he had five spade tricks, one heart, three diamonds in dummy, the ace of clubs and three ruffs.

● *The Times Book of Bridge I, by Robert Sheehan, is available from Barsfords (01376 321270), at £6.99 plus £1 p&p.*

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 40

SHEITEL
(a) Among strictly Orthodox Ashkenazi Jews: a wig worn by a married woman. An adaptation from the Yiddish *sheyil*, crown of the head. "A comely young rebbetzin in a glamorous sheitel and eyelashes long enough to brush dandruff from lapels has been touring American universities to attract straying Jewish youths back to their faith."

TOERING
(b) A wide-brimmed conical hat of straw, formerly worn by Cape Malays. An Afrikaans adaptation of the Malay *tudong*, *tudung* a cover, lid or sun-hat.

WATSONIA
(b) A bulbous plant of the genus of this name (family Iridaceae), native to South Africa and bearing spikes of white, pink, or red flowers similar to gladioli. The eponym of Sir William Watson (1715-87), Scottish naturalist.

SLAVA
(a) A festival of a family saint in Yugoslavia. In Serbo-Croatian literally "honour and renown"

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 40

Question 1:
G. The letters are the initials of colours. Red and Yellow mixed give Orange, Blue and Red give Purple, Yellow and Blue give Green

Question 2:
11. The previous two numbers are added each time to give the next number.

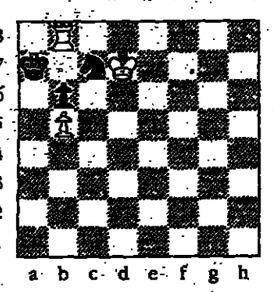
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

EACH WEEK I receive a postbag of readers' letters with queries about the games and positions published here and during the week. Today and next week I will deal with the best of the recent crop; so congratulations if your query, suggestion or game is chosen for publication.

First is a classic endgame which is reputed to have been played in a quick game between two of the greats of chess. It was published as a Winning Move on January 5.

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Capablanca v Lasker, Berlin 1914. Although a rook is stronger than a knight, the endgame of rook against knight is a simple draw. Here it looks as if this element of the game will enable Black to avoid defeat, as he is attacking the white rook as well as his last remaining pawn. How can White disillusion him?

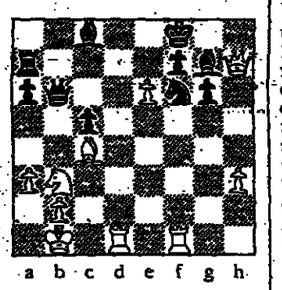


Solution:
1 Ra8+! Nxa8 2 Kc8 Nc7 (the only legal move) 3 Kxc7 Ka8 4 Kxb6 and the white pawn will soon promote.

Philip Skalla of Essex and Dr Vicary of Surrey both suggest that Black could meet 1 Ra8+ with 1 . . . Kb7, to avoid the lost king and pawn endgame. Unfortunately, White then continues 2 Ra7+! and forces the endgame anyway. For example, 2 . . . Kxa7 3 Kxc7 Ka8 4 Kxb6 and the rest is silence.

THE next position is a variation from the game Speelman v Short, Candidates' Match (game 3), London 1988. Published as a Winning Move on December 5, 1997.

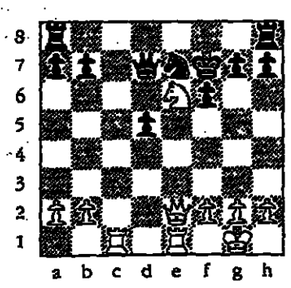
White is the exchange (rook for bishop) ahead but Black is hanging on grimly and trying to drive the white queen away. What is White's most incisive response?



Solution:
1 Rxf6! Bxf6 2 exf7 and Qg8+ will be decisive.

Here Mr Skalla, in a second intervention, points out the alternative solution of 1 Rxf6 Bxf6 2 Rd7. This is a valid way to win the game, perhaps even more spectacular than the solution given.

FINALLY, a critical position from the game Steinitz v von Bardeleben, Hastings 1895, published in this column on December 27

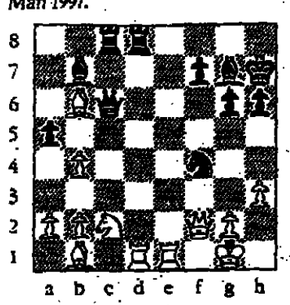


Black continued 19 . . . Rhc8 and after 20 Qg4 White won. David Keeling of Oxford says a better defence would be 19 . . . Nc6, suggesting the variation 20 Nc5 Qf5 21 Nxb7 Qd7 22 Nc5 Qd6. This would indeed have been a better defence, although with material equality and a strong attack, White would still retain excellent winning chances. More speculative is 20 Qh5+ g6 21 Qh6 when Black's best defence is 21 . . . Kg8. White would remain a pawn down but with good development. The conclusion, though, is that Mr Keeling has found an important improvement on Black's defence.

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ledger — Baburin, Isle of Man 1997.



Can you spot Black's immediate winning move?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 Qxh6

The winner is P.W. Foster, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

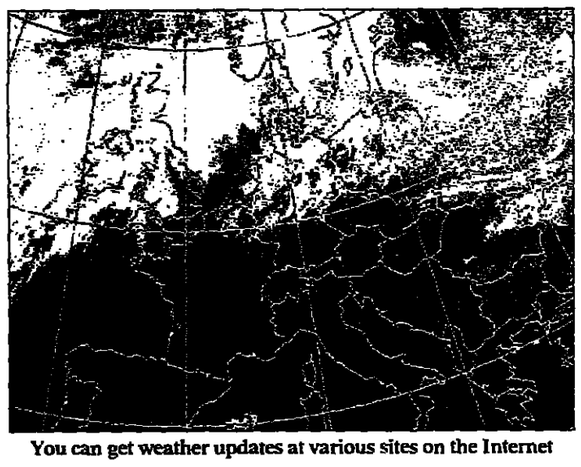
COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

SO SATELLITE TV's Weather Channel has given up on Britain because, according to a spokesman for the American owners, the country just isn't big enough to create sufficiently diverse conditions to be interesting. If you are suffering withdrawal symptoms since the channel folded, you can turn to the Internet day or night for detailed forecasts.

A great site to visit is the flexible **Multimap** (*http://www.multimap.com*) which, come rain or shine, can punch up a forecast for your particular part of the country. Enter the name of your city, town, village or a London street and a detailed colour map pops up, which can also be enlarged or reduced to suit your needs. It does not, yet, accommodate Northern Ireland, although they are working on that.

Multimap offers more than weather updates alone. You can call up the detailed British maps in several ways depending on the data you input. Enter a grid reference or a national postcode and it locates the exact spot or address. The searchable database also includes a handy UK telephone number identifier. Type in a number and the programme pinpoints which part of the country it is in.



You can get weather updates at various sites on the Internet

NOW A final look at entries for **Cyberspace Forty**, offering the chance for six readers to scoop pairs of Intel Create & Share Camera Packs. We asked how you would use a pair. We also asked who you might or might not like to see on your computer.

A typical answer came from Matthew DeLashmit of East Barnet, Herts, who revealed: "I would most like to see on my computer the actress Joanna Lumley, one of the most fascinating women today, while I don't want to see the Spice Girls ever again."

Last week we looked at three winning entries and now we'll name the other three. First up is Audrey Lowson of Aberdeen. She wrote: "Our rural primary school, Maryculter West, has 39 pupils but this will drop to 37 shortly as Max and his brother Colin are leaving. They are to be reunited at last with their father in Saudi Arabia. Max will then attend the International School but Colin, who has cerebral palsy, will be taught at home by a home tutor.

"Colin settled well at our school and the Intel camera pack would enable him to maintain links with his friends here and perhaps even participate in lessons.

"It will also allow the pupils who Max and Colin are leaving behind at Maryculter West to share in the brothers' experience of a new culture in a new country."

Twelve-year-old Nicholas Kassianos of Wokingham, Berkshire, is another Intel winner. He explained: "If I won I'd give the other camera to my granny who lives in Cyprus. I have not seen her for many years although we have spoken on the phone from time to time. I would love to be able to see her for some great conversations — I can think of over a million things I would say to her."

But there is more to Nicholas's keen desire to win. He added: "When I am older my dream is to be a film director. So the PC video camera would enable me to make and produce my own films on the PC. I could even edit them on the PC and add sound effects and visual tricks."

Our final winner will use her camera packs to shorten the distance between the UK and Hong Kong.

Fourteen-year-old Francis Wong of Geddington, Northamptonshire, said: "There are many reasons why I would like to win but perhaps the most important would be to communicate by video with my dad. He started out working in London but was made redundant and has had to move out to Hong Kong to find work, leaving us all behind in England. With Intel cameras we could communicate better and at a much lower cost than by telephone.

"My camera would also improve the quality of my netlife, by letting me see my friends who are on the Internet."

Thank you to everyone who entered. Congratulations to all our winners and condolences to our losers but do not get too downhearted, there are plenty more Cyberspace competitions to come throughout 1998.

NEW SOFTWARE

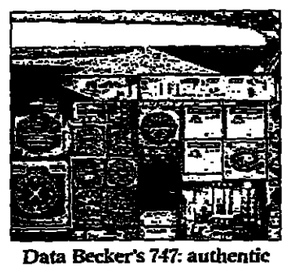
ANDREAS HERBST, a pilot with Lufthansa, is behind the development of Data Becker's 747 add-on for the Microsoft Flight Simulator. Working with the original sim and the latest version, **Flight Simulator 98**, Herbst has put his expertise into fine-tuning the product, which now has a noble and truly authentic feel to it.

You can fly one of ten versions of Boeing's 747 Jumbo range, including cargo jet variations. The title also has six international airports you can fly from or to: Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Nice and three other French Riviera strips.

In cockpit mode, the rows of controls and instrument panels are highly detailed and certainly look the part. The massive 747 planes are heavy beasts and take some handling to get into the sky — and keep there for a long flight.

The title, which requires a Pentium 133 PC or more, is certainly a departure from the norm. It makes a change to fly imported planes, designed with a different feel, on the regular Microsoft titles. But if you find that there are already more than enough planes included on the Microsoft originals, and that six-hour, real-time flying stints are best left to the truly bored, then the 747 spin-off is not for you.

■ **Verdict: 6 out of 10. Interesting if inessential Microsoft Flight Simulator add-on. £19.95.**



Data Becker's 747: authentic

TAKE 2's Lula carries an 18 certificate and is a PC game strictly for adults. That said, it is a lot of fun and despite its seedy theme it is executed with wit and style. Let's say that Lula is an exotic dancer and, as her sidekick, you are charged with taking her to the top of the raunch industry.

In fact, this is a business game in four parts. Lula is on the run from the FBI and hides out in a one-horse American town which will make or break her.

She works as a bar dancer, then a model to buy her way out of this hell-hole. Along the way, she needs to cough up $10,000 or so to buy herself a new identity and so dodge the FBI when they breeze into town on her tail.

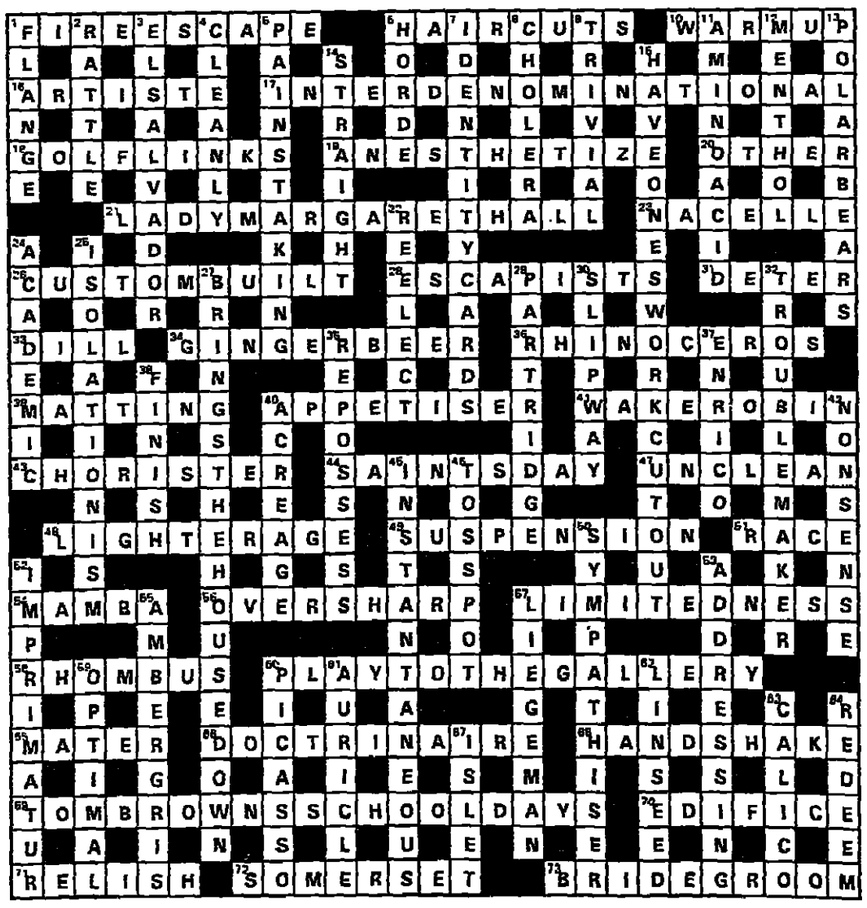
After a long struggle, Lula makes enough to move on. In part two, you build and staff an entire studio lot for Lula and churn out saucy movies.

In the third stage, you set up sex shops in cities around America — including Washington — while in the fourth you get to run an X-rated television channel. You also get to spend your spoils along the way on mansions and private jets.

The mix of styles here keeps the game thoroughly engrossing. Actually, the choice of subject matter is something of a shame since this is a shamelessly good strategy game.

■ **Verdict: 7 out of 10. Adult-only comical business sim.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 149



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Mrs V. McLeish, of Norwich, Norfolk

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I have been going out with a lovely girl for two months. I am unsure as to what I should give her for Valentine's Day as a token of my affection. — Name and address supplied.

A Avoid vulgar red roses and any gaudy multi-coloured arrangements. Go instead for simple, single-colour creations of spring flowers such as an all-white posy of hyacinths, ranunculus and narcissi, tied together with a pale green silk ribbon. If you fancy a change from flowers, try an exquisite bottle of scent. Or, for a more original approach, buy her a book of love poems: whether it is William Shakespeare or Pablo Neruda depends on the sensibilities of the recipient. However, all girls appreciate a present which is beautifully wrapped and lovingly inscribed.

Q Can you recommend an elegant way to retrieve one's coat after a party, when all the coats have been heaped on a bed? Recently I found myself groping through a pile of assorted outerwear after a bash. — S.D., London SW3.



A If you have a mobile telephone, follow the example of an organised young man who, when faced with this problem, retrieved his coat by ringing up his mobile, which was secreted in a pocket. His coat was found in seconds, much to the admiration of onlookers. In the absence of this technological aid, adopt an archaeological approach: for instance, if you were an early arrival, your coat would probably be at the bottom of the pile, and vice versa.

Q After divorcing my husband of 23 years, I am thinking of reverting to my maiden name. However, I have come up against a large obstacle — what title should I use? I have been a "Mrs" for too long to go back to "Miss", and do not particularly like "Ms". — Name and address supplied.

A To revert to Miss after a long marriage would be inappropriate: this form is suitable only for women who have been married for a short time. I recommend you follow the example suggested by the indefatigable Mrs Beeton that: "divorced ladies … assume their maiden name and Mrs prefixed".

Q I am concerned about hygiene and like to suggest to visitors to my house to remove their shoes, Japanese-style. However, I find this embarrassing: should I ignore my feelings or carry on with requests? — Name and address supplied.

A Much as an Englishman's home might be his castle, asking guests to remove their shoes would be considered bizarre behaviour by most people. Therefore, to save awkwardness all round, allow your visitors to remain fully shod. After all, by encouraging them to take off their shoes you might be exchanging one type of unsavouriness for another.

Q While staying at a smart Paris hotel recently, one of the courses we were served was an asparagus dish for which a knife and fork was supplied. I was always thought that if asparagus was served on its own, one should always eat it with one's fingers. Is this correct, or is it only applicable to English etiquette? — Mrs J.D. Simmonds, Basingstoke, Hants.

A How asparagus is eaten in France depends on how it is served, as protocol allows both the hand and the knife and fork method. If asparagus is to be served simply with either a vinaigrette or hollandaise sauce, then it is considered chic to eat it *à l'anglaise* with the fingers. Should it be swimming in a sauce, then a knife and fork would be more practical and acceptable.

Q I have inherited an all-grey morning suit. However, at a smart wedding recently I was the only one so attired — everyone else wore the more traditional suits with striped grey trousers, grey waistcoat and black morning coat. Am I wearing yesterday's fashion — or is everyone else out of step? — Frank Morgan, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

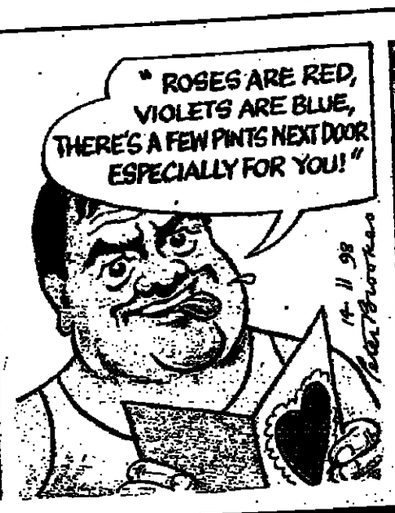
A Except for Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, grey morning coats have developed some unfortunate overtones and are now out of favour. The black coat, on the other hand, is the usual choice for weddings. It is also the most sound option because, like the black top hat, it is always elegant.

Q Upon being asked to a birthday party and knowing that the present I plan to take will be added to a large pile, I am wondering what to put on the card. Normally I would sign only with my Christian name, but as my hostess has at least three friends with my name, I realise she would be left in some doubt as to the donor. — Anne Cavendish, Cumbria.

A The most elegant solution is to invest in a set of visiting cards. These should bear your name, your address but no telephone number and, in the case of a woman, measure 2⅛ x 3½ in. Apart from their obvious function of being given to new people you would like to see again, they bring a personal touch to present-giving. For a super-smart effect, put them in small matching envelopes.

The author is associate editor of GQ.







WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

SHEITEL
a. A woman's wig
b. Kuwaiti television
c. A Middle Eastern coin

TOERING
a. A dactylo-ring
b. A straw hat
c. Cross-country skiing

WATSONIA
a. Fictional memoirs
b. A plant like a gladiolus
c. Scottish old girls

SLAVA
a. A Yugoslav name-day
b. Volcanic pumice
c. A corps de ballet formation

Answers on page 39

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

READERS of *The Washington Post* have voted for Genghis Khan as Man of the Millennium. Other category winners were: Invading Russia (Biggest Mistake); The printing press (Greatest Invention); Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling (Greatest Painting); Albert Einstein (Greatest Scientist); Shakespeare (Greatest Genius); Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (Greatest Musical Composition).

Any suggestions along similar lines would be welcome.

Question 1:
If R + Y = O and B + R = P, what does Y + B =?

Question 2:
What number is missing from this sequence?
4, 7, ?, 18, 29, 47

Answers on page 39

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

I finished last week's column by asking "Can you spot anything unusual about today's first and last paragraphs?". They represented a modest piece of writing in "Anglo-Saxon", the name given by Douglas Hofstadter in his recent book *Le Ton Beau de Marot* to a variety of English in which the letter "e" is never used. When I produced a crossword solution with the same constraint nobody noticed, or at least nobody commented (instead people asked what a "swung dash" is).

A setter with the appropriately "Anglo-Saxon" pseudonym of Araucaria (whose work appears in a rival newspaper, the name of which is also Anglo-Saxon), once created a crossword in which the only vowel used, not only in the answers but also in the clues, was "a". The clues read rather awkwardly at times but, given the constraints, it was a *tour de force*. Even more remarkable is the work of Giuseppe Varaldo, described by Hofstadter. Varaldo has written synopses of about 50 classics of Western literature in classical Italian sonnets, each of which uses only one vowel. By way of variation, he summarised Nabokov's *Lolita*, likewise in a sonnet, using no consonants other than "l" and "t". Hofstadter suggests this dialect of Italian should be called "l'italo", fittingly an anagram of "Lolita". All of these are examples of lipograms, ie, text in which one or more letters do not appear (the converse of pangrammatism).

Ernest Vincent Wright's great *Gadsby* (1939) is a fairly well-known complete novel written without a single "e", but until reading Hofstadter's book I didn't know about *La disparition* by Georges Perec, published in 1969. Amazingly, this French work has been translated into both Anglo-Saxon (in the Hofstadter sense) and "Dutsch" (e-less German). I hope I will be forgiven if, like today, I wander occasionally from crosswords into the world of linguistic curiosities and puzzles.

● *The writer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott might be saying after an icebucket was emptied over him at the Brit Awards.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 18.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Brian O'Connell, of Liverpool, Merseyside.

CHRIS HARRIS



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"As the President of the United States walks with Hillary and the Blairs into the State Dining Room, his height, his sleekness, his newly-cropped, iron-filing hair, and the intensity of his blue eyes project a kind of avid inclusiveness that encircles every jaded celebrity he passes." — *Tina Brown, Editor of the New Yorker.*

"History shows that attempts to establish world hegemony are always shortlived." — *Boris Yeltsin on the build-up of American and British forces in the Gulf.*

"Disqualifying a snowboarder for having traces of marijuana is like disqualifying a darts player for having traces of lager." — *British snowboard retailer Mon Barbour on Canadian gold medallist Ross Rebagliati's positive dope test.*

"The skier pictured on the front page of yesterday's Independent was Takiro Sakamoto of Japan, not Britain's Sam Temple." — *Apology in* The Independent.

"John feels that this was a cowardly act … but he and Pauline [Mrs Prescott] were determined to stay on to see the final performance by Fleetwood Mac." — *David Prescott on his father's reaction to being drenched at the Brit awards.*

"Poor Enoch, driven mad by the remorselessness of his own logic." — *The late Ian McLeod MP, quoted in* The Times *obituary of Enoch Powell.*

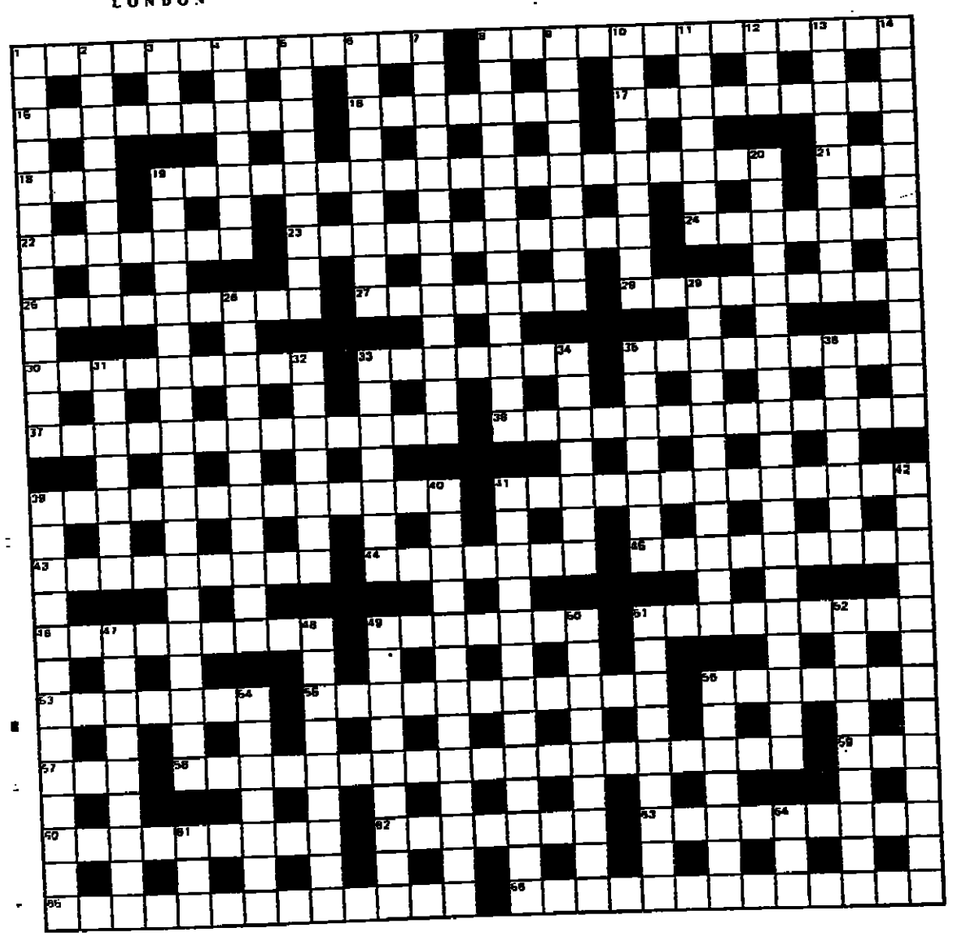
"I think it's knitting together. I can sneeze now without feeling I'm splitting apart." — *The Prince of Wales on his cracked rib.*

"You have to have the Ray-Bans, and a good four-wheel drive — Red Cross Land Cruisers are the ones to be seen in." — *Aid worker Denise Meredith, talking to* Vogue *about "aid chic".*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 151



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 151, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, February 26. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on February 28



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

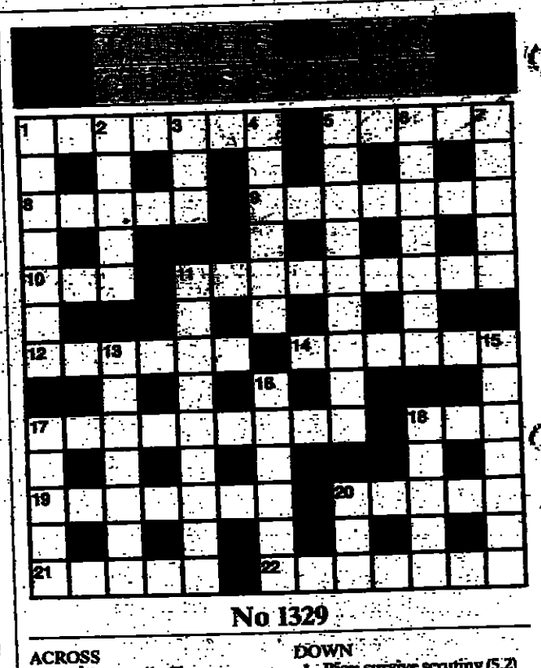
POSTCODE .....

ACROSS

1 Offering a contribution to one's Fellows' Benevolent Fund? (13)
8 Where the beams have fallen in an old property (7,6)
15 Old Muslim's of Cain's race, strangely (9)
16 He's annoying, but he makes some good points (7)
17 Bunches depend upon it for gossip (9)
18 Oddly crafty animal (3)
19 Writing of Scots poet surviving whisky? (6,7,3,3)
21 Some information straight from the horse's mouth (3)
22 Old church stands half amid graveyard's contents (7)
23 When cast should gang together in the Scottish play (6,5)
24 Support vans of every sort parking next to river (7)
25 Author with high-flown and opaque style (3-6)
27 Some foresee the saucepan starts to boil (7)
28 University involved in seeking tailless marine creature (3,6)
30 One advanced in illness is yielding (9)
33 Dictionary curtailed article under bed (7)
35 Girl chasing ferrets she might sacrifice (9)
37 This will pay you for being late (4,9)
38 Disruptive direct action about a Foreign Office authority (13)
39 Paper gaining staff support for electronic mail? (9,4)
41 Parapets hold spikes said to stop the eaves dropping altogether (5,4,4)
43 Article reported Wanderers as noted scorers? (9)
44 Like the ruler whose subjects can't see his new clothes? (3-4)
45 Could I make pure cross? (9)
46 English and the French have mad spirit (9)
49 Show disapproval about a Times leader by telephone (7)
51 Colour that's hard to get down (5,4)
53 Those agreeing to admit stranger to partnership (7)
55 Type of jazz for long-playing record? (11)
56 Changed gear and raced away (7)
57 Some unsavoury turned eggs (3)
58 Super-superabundance? (3,4,2,1,4,5)
59 Attention to detail more than once gains reward (3)
60 One's unlikely to be seen in such a state (9)
62 Works within pub with topless minstrels (7)
63 Like some inks, Indian and English, apt to miss small area (9)
65 Mad general may develop reformed character (4,9)
66 Rapid-running outlet from straits? (9,4)

DOWN

1 Stop confusing first form about Latin after Cicero's time (4-9)
2 Like *Twelve Angry Men*? Mobile library holds it (9)
3 Fragment of circle with a radius (3)
4 Sound effects one's met in play (7)
5 He suffers no problem relating to people (9)
6 They could make long supports — that's about right (4,5)
7 Cancel a lease — start to really organise this? (9,4)
8 Marmalade can inspire such dislike (13)
9 Fish-knife sharpeners — moving signallers of affluence (9)
10 For instance, gadgets which help in some kitchens serving toppings (3,6)
11 Generally, plays not hard on East show growth in Australasia (3-4)
12 Diamonds and yet more diamonds lost in gamble (3)
13 It's hard to modify picture, but it might lower the shock (9)
14 TV series they were inclined to scrap (7,3,3)
19 Over half of shares are commanding dividend (11,8)
20 Where higher primate was shot on film (6,5,8)
26 Easy to see through, like this clue! (11)
29 Risky acquisition, as Alice's bonneted baby became (1,3,2,1,4)
31 Cross about very loud radio? To start with, this may help (7)
32 They produce beams of walnut or chestnut (7)
33 Study test on car that's old and showing movement (3,4)
34 Bad luck getting sunburnt outside, making you wrinkled (7)
35 Exert force to get out of bed and exercise (5-2)
36 Middle Eastern leadership made them angry (7)
39 What might move to run a sit-in demo (5,8)
40 It has potential to separate the sheep from the goats (8,5)
41 Mongrel ferreting away is one often seen in the hedgerows (9,4)
42 Hold up over English run with big hit — it clips cover on leg (9,4)
47 Cook embarked on this first attempt (9)
48 Not entirely simple house in rolling Italian country (9)
49 Sudden move increasing depth of reckless division in church (5-4)
50 Lobster is gelatinous, cooked without one (9)
51 Angry about learner moving away quickly (9)
52 One allowing protection for cricketer that receives deliveries (6,3)
54 Curing the flesh of bad habit (7)
56 Town not truly in Downs (7)
61 Give weapons to a marine (5)
64 Set down poem with music (3)



No 1329

ACROSS

1 Walk proudly (7)
5 Some cards; game with stones (5)
8 Extreme pain (5)
9 Subsidised students' outmating in four (7)
10 One failing to work, explode (3)
11 Healthy state; welfare (4-5)
12 (Am. Ind.) conference (6)
14 Oh no!; fuss (6)
17 Farmworker; pub offers his lunch (9)
18 Large, important (3)
19 Surface earth (7)
20 Desperately desire (5)
21 Fold (in garment) (5)
22 Information (4)

DOWN

1 Rise; survive scrutiny (5,2)
2 Keep away from (5)
3 Nor 5 effigy; a rope (3)
4 Outcome (6)
5 Q. Victoria's ghillie; a *mouldering body* (4,5)
6 Like a young horse (7)
7 Tack; small shoot (ornament) (5)
11 Disconcert (5-4)
13 Hurray!; joke cushion (7)
15 Go back (to earlier state) (7)
16 Good luck charm (6)
17 Accommodate; propose (3,2)
18 Muscle; pig's head jelly (5)
20 A fish; hoax (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1328

ACROSS: 7 Superstition 9 Look/out 10 Music 11 Cats 12 Teenager 15 Passer-by 17 Gown 19 Ingot 21 Ladders 22 Cross fingers

DOWN: 1 Culottes 2 Tenor 3 Tsetse 4 Diamond 5 Miss 6 Anachronism 8 Black Prince 13 Geometry 14 Dentist 16 Baltic 18 Adage 20 Grog

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-£2.99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Coyote-£2.99), The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP£4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Concise Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/POst please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 4YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.